

No. 169  
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2014



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

# Chignal News

## Christmas Flower Decorations

On Friday 5 December 2014 Diana Barnes presented a workshop of Christmas Wreaths, Swags and Garlands in the Village Hall. The day commenced at 10 am with Diana demonstrating three different arrangement styles. This was followed by a light lunch and then it was down to the ladies to create their own arrangements with the help of Diana if needed. The same basic materials were provided for everyone and the beautiful wreaths and swags can be seen in the photo below. (Joan Smith)



## Christmas Coffee & Mince Pies

The village hall Christmas Coffee and Mince Pies morning held on Saturday 6th December was a great success raising over £290. As well as hot drinks and festive treats to eat there was a raffle, a bring and buy, a book stall, Phoenix cards and copies of Tony Wilkins' book 'Three Small Parishes in Mid Essex. A History of the Chignals and Mashbury' for sale. The village hall committee is grateful to everyone who helped on the day and donated prizes and goods to sell. All of the proceeds are for the general running and maintenance costs of the village hall which is entirely self funding and managed by volunteers.



# Chignal Wine Discovery Group

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Our October tasting was presented by Neil Bull of the East Anglian Wine School which is based in the village of Stebbing. Neil was an investment banker in the City but gave that up to start his own wine school working from home. Neil proved to be extremely well-versed in wine and wine-making and gave an interesting and informative talk. His topic was the wines of New Zealand and the wines tasted were:

1. Dry Reising 'The Valleys' Forrest Estate Marlborough 2010
2. Yealands Estate P.G.R Aromatic Blend , Marlborough 2013
3. Sauvignon Blanc, Greywacke Vineyards, Marlborough 2013#
4. Yealands Estate, Winemaker's Reserve, Awatere Valley, Pinot Noir, Marlborough 2013
5. Yealands Estate, Winemaker's Reserve, Gibbston, Pinot Noir, Central Otago 2013
6. C J Pask, Gimblett Road, Hawke,s Bay, Syrah, 2013

In November we had a visit from Alessandro Allegretti of the Woodford Wine Room and unsurprisingly Alessandro gave a presentation of Italian wines. The evening began in a potentially inauspicious way when I received a call from Alessandro to say that he would be late because he had mistaken Chignal for Chigwell and his journey was going to be significantly longer than expected. However everything turned out well in the end because Alessandro turned out to be an excellent and amusing speaker. The wines presented were:

1. Prosecco DOSG Rocca d'Asolo NV
2. Insola IGT Sicilia Woodford Wine Room 2013
3. Gavi DOCG Ottosoldi 2013
4. Nero d,Avola IGT Sicilia Woodford Wine Room 2013
5. Apula Rosso Masseria 2013
6. Langhe Rosso DOC Stroppiana 2011



The wines had something of a mixed reception but the general consensus was that the first and last stood out from the rest.

Norman Smith

If you would like more information on, or wish to join the wine club please contact Dave Thomas on 01245 442474.

# Women's Institute

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At our November Meeting we had a most interesting and informative talk by Phil Lyons on the 'History of a Sailor's Life'. He told us of the very hard time the Sailors had on board a very crowded Ship from being 'Pressed Ganged' onto the Ship and being away from home for sometimes years at a time.

Please note our January Meeting will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 2015. HAPPY CHRISTMAS from us all.

## Thank you Note

I would like to send a big THANK YOU to all my family and friends for their help and visits - especially 'The Friends of Chignals with Mashbury' who gave so generously of their time to help me recover from my 'hip replacement' by taking me to Doctors and Hospital appointments. I am now 'well on the mend' and driving again. Many Thanks. Janet Campen

# Jubilee Orchard

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This year seems to have flown by and before we know it we will be holding our second wassailing event!

As previously mentioned it will be held on 3rd January, starting at 5 pm. The event will be similar to last year, but we are inviting you this time to bring a decorated piece of toast with string attached! This is another old tradition where we tie the toast to the trees to encourage the good spirits to ward off the bad! and encourage great growth for another year.

We will provide the apple juice once again to sprinkle over the trees as before.

The Molly men are already tuning up their instruments ready for the night! This event only lasts about an hour and then they will make their way to the Three Elms pub for much needed sustenance and a jolly good sing song. Anyone is invited to join with them there as well, but if you want to eat as well we suggest that you book a table in advance.

If you did not come along last year - just to recap - wassailing is a pagan tradition to encourage a healthy orchard the following summer. Molly men come along and sing and dance - their faces may be blacked up. We are all encouraged to join in and we also sprinkle apple juice and tie toast on to the trees It's a fun activity following a very old rural tradition that takes place in the dark. Children love the freedom of running around at night time too!

So, please come and join in a bit of fun, but don't forget - warm clothing and torches along with any pan lids/rattles etc. to make a noise are a must! (and the toast, if you wish). As for all our activities, parents must take full responsibility for their children and also be aware of traffic on the road at all times.

## Other events 2015

Easter egg hunt - we are looking for someone to run this event in the village for next year - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April? If you would like to run this for the children of the village that would be great - you would have the freedom to run it however you choose, using the orchard if you wish. You may have an idea of a treasure hunt around the village? The ideas are endless!! Please get in touch with us if you could offer your time for this event.

Kind regards and a happy Christmas  
Sandra and the Orchard committee

# Dates for your Diary

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM will take place at 8pm  
on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015  
at the village hall.

All welcome - please come along

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## **QUIZ NIGHT**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

7.30pm at the village hall

£6 entry includes traditional Ploughman's Supper

Please BYOB, glasses & cutlery.

Prizes for the raffle would be welcome

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Whist Drives will be held at the Village Hall on the following dates in 2015:

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

All start at 7.30pm. £2.50 entry includes light refreshments.  
Prizes for the raffles would be welcome

*All profits to village hall maintenance & refurbishment funds*

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Coffee Morning Village Hall

Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> 10 – 12.30 pm

In support of Dementia UK's 'Time for a Cuppa' week

More details to follow!

# Mashbury Parish Update

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My grateful thanks to all those residents who signed the petition requesting Chelmsford City Council to review the Parish Meeting. A minimum of 50% of voters was needed to require Chelmsford CC to take action. As I was able to hand in signatures from 74% of voters, the Council have had a very strong message of support for the amalgamation with Chignal Parish Council.

Chelmsford City Council is now required by law to undertake a consultation on the future of Mashbury Parish Meeting. The consultation will be with everyone involved so with all resident voters, local councillors representing us and with neighbouring Parishes where relevant. There is no set time limit for the consultation to begin and Chelmsford CC have suggested that with other workloads they will delay the Mashbury consultation, even though it is a very small one.

I will keep residents updated when the situation changes, but at present I continue to look after Mashbury Parish interests.

Please do contact me if you any questions about the process.

Moira Tarrant, Chair; Mashbury Parish Meeting

m.tarrant@virgin.net      01245 231437

## Thank You

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I would like to thank everyone who has bought a copy of the History of the Chignals and Mashbury, the sales made a profit of £750 which has been donated to the church repair fund. In this way it has benefited our community. A huge 'THANK YOU' to Gill Thomas who organized all the sales and distributed the books, we certainly could not have done it without her. We are all local historians now because of **Chignal News** which covers all Parish Council events and everything else which goes on here, many thanks to the Editors past and present. Tony has been pleased with messages about the book which many of you have kindly made. Tony is not too well at present and not able to get about so contact has been much appreciated.

If you wish to make any comment about the book please contact me at [Myra@hwilkins.com](mailto:Myra@hwilkins.com) or 440659.

Myra Wilkins



# Chignal Parish Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> November

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Present:

Cllr Miss Lynn Ballard (Chair)

Cllr Mr. Steve Middleditch

Cllr Malcolm Feltwell

Cllr Ms Linda Nelson (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Mr Andrew Jenkins

Cllr Mr. Chris Philpot

Cllr Mr. Martyn Towns

In Attendance:

Cllr John Aldridge Essex County Council

Mrs. Janet Mills (Parish Clerk) and 10 Parishioners

## 1. Apologies For Absence

Cllr Nicolette Chambers Chelmsford City Council

## 2. Register Of Declarations Of Interests

Cllr Chris Philpot declared an interest in item 14 of the agenda.

## 3. The Minutes Of The Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## 4. Matters Arising From The Minutes

(a) Draft Restoration Plan.

It was agreed that this item would be taken under 12d of the agenda 'Gravel Liaison',

(b) Gardening Express

City Council planners, had had no further contact with Gardening Express regarding the submission of a planning application for a packing shed that was to include proposals of how space might be provided to get the huge delivery lorries and employees' cars off the road.

(c) Notice Boards

Cllr Towns had no reply from enquiries made with a local contractor for the maintenance of the notice boards. It was agreed that another contractor would be contacted.

(d) Governance of Mashbury

The Chelmsford City Council had advised that, due to current work load, the matter would not be considered until the summer of 2015. Members expressed disappointment at the news. Work would be undertaken to ascertain whether the matter could be considered sooner.

## 5. Public Question Time

- a) A resident reported that her legitimate claim for compensation for significant damage to her vehicle because of a pothole in the road had been rejected by ECC Highways Department.
- b) A note of thanks was given by Broomfield Football Club for the use of the playfield.
- c) Concerns were again raised regarding the need to cut back hedges near to the Three Elms Public House and on the bend near to Gardening Express. Members had spoken with the land owners regarding the matter.
- d) A resident put forward a list of objections to Planning Application 14/01659/FUL Boyton Hall Farm, Boyton Hall, Roxwell which was to be considered later in the agenda. The resident outlined a number of concerns and requested that that the PC should make the recommendation that permission be granted for 'agricultural use only'. Members noted the objections.

## 6. Heavy Lorry Movements

The PC had made enquiries following a number of complaints regarding the increasing number of large lorries carrying soil on Larks and Breed Road. It was ascertained that the lorry company was using the roads as a short cut to Chelmsford during peak traffic times. ECC had advised that the PC could apply for a weight restriction to be placed upon the roads in question. It was recognised that half of Breeds road fell into the Great Waltham parish, after discussion it was agreed that the CPC would consult with Great Waltham Parish Council to see if they would wish to jointly apply for a weight restriction.

## 7. Chairman's Report

The Chairman advised the meeting as follows:

- a) In order to progress work on the Parish Plan, the Chairman had recently attended a Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) workshop day. It was explained that the RCCE provide assistance to facilitate workshops to develop resident led Parish Plans.

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If to be progressed the PC would need to pay a membership fee. The Chairman proposed and Cllr Nelson seconded the motion that the PC should pay £80 to become a member of the RCCE and the Community Local Plan Network. With no objections the motion was carried.

b) The PC had received detailed plans from the Essex Highways detailing the work to be carried out on passing places in Chignal Smealy. The PC had requested that the work be carried out before the winter.

Arrangements were currently being made for 2 residents affected by the work to meet with highway engineers.

c) Chelmsford City Council had recently published their Employment Land Review document. The purpose of the review was to consider and whether there was sufficient land allocated for business in the area. The document sited that there are currently 7 existing businesses, 1500 sq mtrs of business space land in the Parish. At present there were no proposals for allocated land in the Chignals. Development of rural areas relied upon conversion of existing agricultural buildings which was limited by planning permissions; consideration would also need to be taken regarding motor road access and Broadband availability. This issue could be debated and considered as part of the development of the Parish Plan.

## 8. County And City Councillors' Reports

Cllr John Aldridge gave the following report:

**Recommendation** (a) Essex County Council Devolution. Essex County Council (ECC) was one of the largest councils in the country. In order to gain a fairer share of central funding to cover economic growth. In light of the Scottish Referendum, ECC and Other large Authorities were now seeking further devolution from Central Government.

(b) ECC Cllr Bass was aware of the issues related to hedgerows. ECC

had allocated £50,000 to district councils for work to be undertaken to provide better hedgerow management.

(c) Cllr Aldridge was pleased to advise that the ECC Apprenticeship Scheme had resulted in 3000 work placements.

## 9. Planning Applications

The following decisions were noted: Countryside Properties planning application, 14/00976/FUL

(a) Western Parcel Land North of Copperfield Road Chelmsford Essex Residential development of 60 dwellings together with associated and ancillary development including access, roadworks to Hollow Lane, servicing, amenity space and landscaping. Ongoing – Revised Application in progress.

(b) Application 14/01418/FUL 2 Brick Barns Cottages Chignal St James Removal of existing single story side addition, and construction of single story rear addition and two story side addition. Application Permitted

### **New Applications considered prior to the meeting**

To meet the planning timetable the PC has considered and commented on the following applications:

**14/01623/FUL 2 School View**, It is not considered that the proposed development will have a detrimental visual impact from the road and it does not appear that it will unduly affect adjoining residents. **for approval**

**14/05261/TPO The Old School, felling a TPO oak** – There is no indication in the application that the tree is damaged or diseased or that it is causing harm to the property. Given the considerable wildlife and amenity value of this oak and the clear guidance on tree preservation provided in the VDS, there does not appear to be sufficient justification to overturn the TPO to enable it to be felled and replaced with a non-native ornamental tree. **Recommendation for refusal.**

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**14/01581/FUL Old Manse, side extension** -The Village Design Statement recommends that “Extensions should be sympathetic to the property and in harmony with the surroundings”, page 20. It is not considered that the proposed development will have a detrimental visual impact from the road or nearby Right of Way. As the Old Manse is detached and located some distance from other dwellings, neither will it unduly affect adjoining residents.

**Recommendation for approval.**

**14/00976/FUL Western Parcel,** Copperfield Road, Countryside amended application. Chignal Parish Council has already lodged a response to the original planning application by Countryside Properties for this site and would wish to re-iterate its concern about the retention of existing Public Rights of Way across the application site. These should be retained for public access and if any routes are proposed to be amended they should be subject to the official diversion order process prior to the granting of any planning permission for the development. In addition a number of shared common concerns about the proposed development have been discussed with Broomfield Parish Council and the Newlands Spring Residents’ Association. The Statement of Common Ground between Broomfield Parish Council, Chignal Parish Council and Newlands Spring Residents Association Regarding Planning Application 14/00976/FUL, Hollow Lane, Broomfield is shown below.

## **The Statement of Common Ground between Broomfield Parish Council, Chignal Parish Council and Newlands Spring Residents Association**

### **1. Background and Introduction**

Broomfield Parish Council, Chignal Parish Council and Newlands Spring Residents’

Association (‘we’) represent the communities directly affected by this planning application and, on behalf of our parishioners/residents, have a number of important concerns with the current application.

First, we want to stress that we accept that the development of this site is part of the adopted Core Strategy and North Chelmsford Area Action Plan (NCAAP). We present this Statement of Common Ground in order to improve the implementation of NCAAP Site Allocation 4 not to hinder its implementation. Each party to this Statement may raise other issues separately. However, having met to discuss the application, we believe it will be helpful to Chelmsford Council as the planning authority for the points of common ground to be highlighted, as follows:

### **2. Lack of clear co-ordinated planning for the development of the Countryside and Persimmon land-holdings**

It is essential that the development of both plots is co-ordinated to ensure the best use of land, access arrangements and resourcing of necessary infrastructure. The North Chelmsford Area Action Plan (NCAAP) stipulates in Para 2.46 that:

**‘The site comprises two separate land holdings. Therefore there is a need for a joint landowners’ agreement to be established to ensure that the site can be masterplanned and developed in a coordinated and integrated way’.**

We can see no evidence that such an agreement exists and, while there appears to have been liaison on a number of aspects, no evidence that the separate land holdings have been masterplanned in a co-ordinated and integrated way.

There are references in a number of places (e.g. Design and Access Statement para 3.1, Planning Statement 6.11) about how a future application from Persimmon might affect the current Countryside application. There is a claim that ‘the applicant has worked closely with Persimmon’ (Planning Statement 6.10). This vagueness is matched in the Planning Statement from Persimmon:



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'It is understood that discussions are ongoing between the Council and Countryside regarding the interface of the Countryside Scheme with the Persimmon site' (Planning Statement on behalf of Persimmon Homes Essex Ltd, para.2.7).

It is clear therefore that any 'masterplan' is not sufficiently 'coordinated and integrated' (NCAAP Para 2.46). The lack of such a document clearly contravenes the NCAAP Para 2.46 and we believe this is sufficient reason for the current application to be refused.

In addition, the lack of a coordinated approach underlies a number of other problems with the application, which we set out below.

### 3. Developer Obligations

Para 6.87 of the Planning Statement summarises a number of S106 payments that the City Council would rightly expect from the combined developments in order to fund necessary infrastructure, including the Chignal Road/Roxwell Road junction improvements. However the following Para 6.88 declares that: 'the applicant has neither agreed the principle of these or indeed any mechanism as to how these contributions will be calculated e.g. on a pro rata basis and apportioned between the applicant and Persimmon'.

As well as contradicting Para.6.13 of the Planning Statement, Para. 6.88 shows that the applicant clearly reserves the right not to pay anything towards these essential items of infrastructure.

As indicated above, this problem could be easily resolved by the landowners' agreement referred to in NCAAP which would *inter alia* resolve how such costs should be apportioned. Without this, the stance adopted by the applicant is unacceptable. Any eventual approval must ensure that obligations are apportioned fairly between Countryside and Persimmon, and in a way that ensures all the necessary infrastructure is secured. It is much harder to do this if the applications are determined separately and at different times.

### 4. The current junction of Hollow Lane/Chignal Road

We believe that the current junction is not adequate for any increased level of traffic. Without some kind of re-configuration, a driver turning left (southbound) has to turn their head at a sharp angle to check for traffic approaching from the right – traffic along Chignal Road (Woodhall Hill) often travels very fast due to a perceived lack of obstacles and constraints. There have been a number of near misses in recent years, which would clearly stand a greater chance of becoming full blown accidents given a proportionately large increase in the number of vehicles exiting Hollow Lane. We believe that this junction is unsuitable to handle the increase in traffic from the proposed development. NCAAP para 2.45 requires 'a new access onto Chignal Road' for 'a widened Hollow Lane' and Figure 7 indicates where a potential new access could be achieved. It would be much better to wait until Persimmon's proposal for a new junction has been approved. The Countryside development could then use Persimmon's proposed new link road from the outset, which in turn would provide access to Chignal Road via a new purpose-built junction.

### 5. The Persimmon Application (14/01672/FUL)

Given the lack of a masterplanned approach, Countryside might have claimed at the time of application that they were unaware when/if Persimmon would submit their application and therefore that they could not wait before submitting their own.

If so, this argument is no longer valid as Persimmon have submitted a hybrid application, which seeks full permission for their proposed link road. As outline permission only is sought for the development itself (14/01672/OUT), the full permission for the new link road, junction realignment and two new access points can proceed more quickly than a comprehensive detailed application.

Given that both applications have now been submitted, it is not only a requirement of the NCAAP, but also manifestly common sense that the two applications should be determined in an integrated way. The Countryside application must at least be deferred to be determined with Persimmon's, so that all consultees and ordinary

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residents can clearly see how the two applications interrelate and how the joint infrastructure will be secured.

This will avoid the danger of confusion, complication and the need for complex legal agreements between Countryside and the planning authority that would then have to be unpicked when the Persimmon application is approved, perhaps only 2 or 3 months later. For instance, if Countryside is given approval now, agreements would need to be made about the Hollow Lane/Chignal Road junction covering a short period and then replaced by totally different agreements about stopping the junction up. It is hard to see how such complexity and confusion is helpful to anyone, even the applicant.

## **6. Impact of Construction Work and Works Traffic**

The impact of construction work must be kept to a minimum. This is a further reason why an integrated approach is essential to ensure proper overall planning. In addition, the new access road proposed by Persimmon offers an opportunity to secure a new access **before** construction work and the work to downgrade the western section of Hollow Lane. If the Countryside application is approved earlier and separately and is implemented first, construction traffic will have to use Hollow Lane to access their site and the Lane will have to be widened while it is still in use, creating unnecessary disruption.

On the wider subject of construction traffic, the planning and highways authorities need to be mindful that many country lanes can be used to access this area. Clear agreements need to be in place to ensure that all construction traffic (both Countryside and Persimmon) accesses the site by the most appropriate route. We would be happy to support the authorities, by using our knowledge of how traffic moves in the rural areas of Broomfield and Chignal as well as Newlands Spring and adjoining areas.

## **Applications to be Considered at the Meeting**

The following applications were considered at the meeting. The following comments were made:

**14/01689 and 14/01690** Chignal Hall, Chignal Hall Road.

Proposed Orangery to side, extend kitchen to side at ground floor, glazed link extension, garage extension, new pool building, tennis courts and fence enclosure, dormer window amendments, vehicular gates, extend driveway, loft room extension, new loft stair, alterations to fenestration including first floor and second floor side windows. *The proposal is considered to be sympathetic to the Listed Building, in harmony with its surroundings and is within the guidelines of the Village Design Statement.*

*Recommended for Approval.*

**Application 14/01550/FUL** Pieces Cottages, Proposed Single storey side extension & first floor side extension. *Notwithstanding recent considerable enlargements to this cottage, the proposed extensions still appear to fit with the Village Design Statement recommendations, "extensions should not unduly affect neighbouring residents and should not completely fill the available space". Recommended for Approval.*

**Application 14/01672/OUT** Eastern Parcel Land North Of Copperfield Road Chelmsford –Hybrid application for residential development to include (i) full planning permission for a new link road, junction realignment and two new access points to site, and (ii) outline planning permission sought for development consisting of up to 198 dwellings, including landscaping and open space (all matters reserved except access). These planning applications will be considered at the Chignal Parish Council meeting on 12 January 2015.

**14/01677/FUL** Beaumont Otes, Chignal Road, Chignal Smealy - Construction of an agricultural steel portal framed building designed as a purpose made grain storage & drying facility.

*Providing the proposal includes native tree screening and an agreed landscaping scheme there were no objections.*

*Recommended for Approval*

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**14/01686/FUL** Forge Cottage Chignal Road  
Chignal Smealy  
Construction of fence and trellis. ***The use of high wooden fencing fronting directly onto the road is not sympathetic to the surroundings. The Village Design Statement recommends that existing hedges should be retained wherever possible and that boundary walls or fences should reflect the essentially rural character of the area. High front fences are generally inappropriate in a rural area and should be discouraged. Native hedging/screening of the fencing would be more in keeping. Recommended for refusal.***

## **10. Orchard Committee**

A note of thanks was given to those who had undertaken work to prepare the Orchard for the winter season. Two very successful events, including a very well attended Halloween evening had recently been undertaken. With regard to developing local interest in the Orchard Cllr Middleditch proposed and Cllr Philpot seconded a motion that the Orchard Committee set up, maintain and manage a dedicated Orchard web site and social media site on Face Book and Twitter. With no objections the motion was carried.

## **2.Representatives' Reports – the Meeting noted the following reports:**

### a) Playing Field

Broomfield Football Club would be using the playing field this season.

Work to cut back the hedges had now been undertaken.

The Caravan Club had recently used the playing field.

### b) Village Hall Liaison

The Halloween event in the Village Hall on 31<sup>st</sup> October was most enjoyable and was very well attended. The Village Hall Committee was continuing the work with the Derbyshire Environmental Trust for the development of the Hall. The outcome would be known by the end of the year.

### c) Newsletter Including Website

The latest news letter had been slightly delayed so as to be able to report the outcome of the Halloween Event, this edition would be available shortly. The Clerk and Cllr Nelson would be meeting shortly to discuss developments of the PC website.

### d) Gravel Liaison

With regard to the restoration plan, Members of the PC had recently met with directors of Lafarge Tarmac. Discussions took place regarding the need for a provision to ensure prevention of vehicle access on the site. Lafarge agreed an undertaking to provide a ditch for drainage purposes to the South and West of the site. The new planning application was yet to be submitted to ECC. The Roxwell area of the site had not yet been properly restored.

### e) Village Watch

A dedicated Rural Crime Liaison Officer, who would primary work with Farmers in the area, was now patrolling the area. Residents were asked not to approach perpetrators, but to report any signs of Hare Coursing in the Parish, to the Police.

### f) Highways

Concerns had again been raised regarding hedge cutting near to the 3 Elms Public house. Land owners had been recently approached. It was agreed that a formal letter be sent regarding the matter.

### g) Footpaths/Bridleways

The Parish Council had not been consulted on the CCC proposed work to rights of way in the parish. Contact would be made with the relevant CCC officer to put forward suggestions for improvements in the Parish. It was again noted that the Bridleway at Beadles Hall was very boggy.

### h) Telephone Box - Chignal St. James

Quotes for the cost of materials to paint the telephone box had been forwarded to the PC for consideration. A service request had been raised with the CCC parks Dept to cut the grass.

### i) Tree Warden

Cllr Ballard had attended the Braintree District Council Tree Warden Forum in October. With regard to Ash Die Back, Parish Councils had been asked to undertake a survey along roads and rights of way and to urge landowners to replace these trees with other native species.

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## 12. Finance

a) The notes of the Parish Council Budget Meeting held 3 November were noted and approved. The Chairman explained the group's recommendation that additional funds may be required to cover election expenses, to be able to offer community grants, to prepare a Parish Plan and to keep pace with the Clerk's statutory salary increase. The Chairman proposed and Cllr Chris Philpot seconded a motion that the PC applies for a precept of £5,700 for 2015 – 2016. With no objection the motion was carried.

b) Members had received and approved Quarter end accounts as at 30 September 2014. Current balances were £4,898.93 current account and £3,237.33 community account.

c) Cheques issued since last meeting were noted as follows; Taylor Agricultural Eng. £390.00 grass cutting (5 months) Cllr S.Middleditch £324 Tour De France banners, Cllr Feltwell £56.13 orchard maintenance, £723 Clerks salary (6 moths net) HMRC £180.80, Taylor Agricultural Eng £222.00 grass & hedge cutting, Cllr S. Middleditch 56.00 WWI plaque, Village Hall £25.00 car park hire, Chelmsford DBF £67.34 Newsletter.

## 13. Correspondence For Information

The Clerk circulated information regarding an energy scheme for information.

## 14. Late Urgent Business

To meet the planning timetable the following application was considered and following comments were made as a matter of late and urgent business.

**Application 14/01659/FUL** Boyton Hall Farm, Boyton Hall, Roxwell. Variation to condition 1 of retrospective permission 12/00216/FUL for resurfacing and improvement of existing farm track. *The condition that the track should only be used for purposes directly related to agriculture should be retained because of the potential harmful impact on this area of open countryside by allowing use by commercial vehicles. The use of Chignal Hall Barns is restricted to long term storage which should not*

*generate significant traffic so there should be no need for these tenants to use the farm track to access Boyton Hall Farm and the A1060. However, an exception could be made for the use of the track by the Essex Young Farmers and Essex Scouts, (tenants at Chignal Hall Barns) who would need to access Boyton Hall Farm to stage their periodic events.*

## 15. Date Of Next Meeting 12th January 2015 7.30pm in the Village Hall



# Gardening Club

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Have you ever asked yourself ‘what can I do with this space?’ when faced with a new garden or one that you’d like to change? At our November meeting, our speaker Darren Lerigo gave us some insights about how gardeners from very different surroundings and traditions in Japan, Finland, Spain and Uruguay go about designing their garden spaces. In these examples, the local environment and native flora influenced the choice of plants and gardening style and we were challenged to look afresh at our own spaces and consider a rather freer approach, using more ornamental grasses, herbs and wildlife friendly plants. Mowing large areas of lawn could also become more relaxed, allowing some areas to grow as meadow with wild flowers which would only need cutting once a year in the summer. Our management of the community orchard was quoted as a good example of this approach. For more information, please see the work that Darren has done locally and abroad: [www.modernmint.co.uk](http://www.modernmint.co.uk)

Our next speaker on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 7.30pm** will be a treat for those of you who would like to create arrangements from flowers and other materials from your own garden – you may have seen Rachel de Thame’s experiments with growing flowers for cutting on ‘Gardener’s World’ this year. Come along to hear Maike Windhorst tell us all about “*The Flower Arranger’s Garden*”.

Our Spring programme continues on **18 February** with “*Potatoes and their cultivation*”, by Sherie Plumb, who is a Champion potato grower and on **18 March** with “*Vegetable Growing*”, by Michael Abel from Agrilan.

**If you’re interested in either of these talks, please feel free to come along. For more information, please contact Graham Andrews (Chairman) on 01245 442625 or Lynn Ballard (Secretary) on 01245 440880.**

*Happy Christmas from St Nicholas, Chignal Smealy*

*Please join us for our Christmas Services*

Sunday 7 December	5.00pm	Christingle, Great Waltham
Wednesday 17 December	8.00pm	Carol Singing at the Three Elms
Sunday 21 December	3.00pm	United Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion, Great Waltham
Christmas Day	9.30am	URC Chignal Smealy, Family Worship





# St. Nicholas' Church

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Happy Christmas everyone!

I hope that nobody is so bogged down with the preparations for Christmas that they are too worried and exhausted to enjoy it and end up resenting the whole business; or that anyone is feeling excluded by "everyone else's" seemingly-packed diaries of parties and family. It can be a tough time for some.

Underneath all the hustle is that timeless story of a homeless family in desperate straits, the too-young mother, the stressed future-step-father, the pain and miracle of birth and the promise of glory. I hope you will all come to celebrate that great and simple mystery in the fun and praise of the Crib Service at 4 pm at St Nicholas, on Christmas Eve. Whatever our age, that's the start of a real Christmas, with carols and the crib, candles and plastic animals and wonky angels' wings somehow putting it all into perspective.

Midnight service is at Great Waltham at 11.30 pm, and there's a Christmas Morning Family Communion at 11 and everybody's welcome, whether they usually come to church or not.

The PCC is busy at the moment considering how services across the parishes can be best organised when Rev'd Caroline is also Priest-in-Charge of Little Waltham with Great & Little Leighs parish, later in 2015. How can the mix of services be balanced so people can attend the sort of service they need, without making the whole thing a shambles of rushing about, no continuity and no pastoral time?

With LW & GL & LL come Rev'd Sandra Sykes, who is well-known to St Nicholas' folk and who will be priested in mid-2015, and two Readers, Sam Marriage and Greg Waters, and all our Churchwardens are well able to lead services, so it's clearly an opportunity as well as a problem to be solved, but PCC would like your views on how you see the future. Please talk to Tony, Helen or Cherry, (and Nigel who has kindly stepped in to be our Hon. Treasurer – welcome and thanks, Nigel!), Revds Caroline and Rose.

And please talk to any of us about perhaps becoming a Churchwarden at St Nicholas, or PCC Secretary. These are key community roles, part of the glue that holds us together, and it would be wonderful to know that when Tony and Helen and Cherry retire from their positions in the spring, The Chignals have their successors in place. Tony can explain what being Churchwarden involves, and it doesn't have to be a singleton job – it is great to have two wardens to "job-share" between themselves.

So it's all change as usual really – the year turns, we begin to turn our face towards the sun again and the love, the glory, of God is revealed in the mystery and simplicity of the Child of Bethlehem. Rev'd Caroline and I wish you, and all whom you love, a truly blessed and happy Christmas and New Year.

Blessings  
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