



Janet and Sheila on the plant stall, which raised over £700



Myra surrounded by art for sale - another stalwart of the fete is the vintage agricultural vehicles and engines, motorcycles and cars that are on display



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St Nicholas

Saturday August 15th

Church Open Day 11am – 3.30pm

Saturday September 12th

Friends of Essex Churches
Sponsored Ride and Stride

Sunday October 4th

Harvest Festival 3pm followed by
tea in the village hall

In April we had a very informative presentation by hearing aid specialist Mr. Mel Hastings. He encouraged us to have our hearing checked and not to be put off by the fact that you might have to wear a hearing aid as many are very small and almost a fashion accessory! The prices were a bit scary. In May we had a change of plans due to a rearrangement of an earlier WI due to snow. The Resolution concerning bees was briefly discussed, each member had been sent information regarding this resolution before the meeting. Then Mrs Anne O'Riordan gave a sensitive insight into the teaching of blind children. The following day we held the Tindal Group meeting at the Village Hall, we had visitors from Broomfield, Galleywood and Great Baddow WIs. Mr. John Kay from Colchester was the speaker, he is an artist and he painted a water-colour for us, fortunately he videos his work as he goes along so all 70+ people were able to see the picture develop on a screen. Janet Cam pen and Gill Cater had organised a wonderful tea with many members of our WI providing the cakes and sandwiches. Representatives from the Medical Mission came along to collect the knitted garments which members had made for children overseas, well over a hundred items of beautiful knitting were ready this year. In June we had our garden meeting at the delightful garden created by Janet and Tony Campen. The weather was

perfect and we were joined by husbands and friends including friends from Broomfield WI. Janet's Garden is a work of art. Virginia Freeston from Orchard Springs WI had been our delegate at the National AGM at the Albert Hall and she gave an excellent report on this meeting. In July we are looking forward to hearing about other garden parties, the ones held by the Queen!

July 2nd. Royal Garden Parties.
Mrs. Margaret Jones JP
August 6th A musical quiz.
Mr. & Mrs. Edie Stubbings
September 3rd The show must go on.
Mrs Barbara Poulter.

Art Group We have new members who have added extra interest to the group. Many thanks to the members who submitted paintings for the fete art exhibition and to those who made greetings cards for the event. We made £151 which would be good for a whole weekend show, most of the money was from the sale of cards but 6 paintings were sold. The art always makes an extra interest at the fete and as usual WI members were involved everywhere!

Bowls Club

Since April we have played five matches against RHP, Leaden Roding, Broomfield, Black Notley and Purleigh. We won four out of five, quite a pleasing result.

Recently, several men from the Club visited Duxford Air Museum. Judging from the amount of aeroplane photos they had a good time.

Ann Coates

Charity Wool



Many thanks to the lady who left wool for me at the Village Fete. In the first week I knitted a child's jumper and a bobble hat with some of it. If anyone else can spare any odd balls, please leave them with Eve Pitts at 1, Ivy Cottages, Chignal St. James, or call me on 01245 266067 and I will collect. Enid Havard.

Village Hall

Fete

We had good weather for the Garden Fete and Vintage Rally in June. Held at Woodhall in Chignal Smealey the event was very well attended by both exhibitors and visitors, resulting in £2,500 towards village hall maintenance and refurbishments.

On display were vintage cars, bikes, commercial vehicles, farm machinery and tractors, toys, static engines, lawn mowers and dairy bygones, as well as the street organ that kept us entertained all day. Many of the exhibitors belong to the Farm Machinery Preservation Society, and all of them are presented with brass plaques that are put on show with their exhibits.

A blacksmith and a glass artist provided demonstrations while three alpacas and several rabbits entertained us just by being themselves. The games went down well with the children (and some of the grown ups); stalls included cakes, plants, bric a brac, books and tombola as well as sales of honey and a cake raffle. An art exhibition was held in the conservatory, and three hundred cream teas were enjoyed by appreciative visitors.

Wine Club

A welcome return to Mike Richards, who gave us a tour of New Zealand Wines. New Zealand produces 0.5% of the global wine production however approximately one third of all New Zealand wines are exported to the UK, this explains why they are regulars on our shelves. Mike gave us a tour of the North and South Islands introducing us to the wine makers rather than the wines.

Matt Thomson – the International Wine Winner (NZ) 2009 – an up and coming name to look out for, Kim Crawford – a virtual wine maker and previous International Winemaker 2 years running in the 1990's, Wild Earth (Michelle Richardson) - only the third year in production having planted vines in Central Otago in 2001, through to Te Mata Awatea from the oldest New Zealand wine estate in Hawkes Bay which has been producing wines since 1896. An unusual twist to a tasting but worthy to note that a wine will follow the makers style. An enjoyable evening was had by all. Thanks Mike!

Looking forward optimistically to long lazy summer evenings our May meeting centred on

The setting for the fete has much to do with its success and the committee extends grateful thanks to Norman and Beryl Wastenev for the use of their beautiful garden again this year. The committee also appreciates the participation of the exhibitors, the voluntary services of the Army cadets and St John's Ambulance, all those who help in any way with the organisation and running of the fete whose hard work and commitment make this event such a success every year, and everyone who supported the event on the day by coming along, spending some money and having 'a grand day out'.

Funding

The committee's recent application to the National Lottery's Awards for All was successful, resulting in a £10,000 grant towards the cost of refurbishing the car parking area. It is hoped to have the work completed in the next few months.



Summer Wines and was presented by Stephen Lacey of Adnams - Saffron Walden. A busy evening with 8 wines to taste we were straight on with the job in hand. We started off with two sparkling wines – a Rose and a Prosecco, the first fermented in traditional champagne style the bubbles were tight and mousse light. The Prosecco, having been tank fermented, had bigger fresher bubbles. Both had their fans, and critics. We then travelled through Spain, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and France before finishing with another sparkling, but this time it was a sparkling red Shiraz! This really split the group and became the talking point for the cheese and biscuits that followed. Another interesting and informative evening. Thanks again to Stephen and Adnams (a name not normally associated with wine) – armed with our tasting notes, all we now need are those long hot summer evenings!

Please contact Dave (442474) if you would like to find out more about the wine club.

Gardening Club

Members of the gardening club manned the ever popular plant stall at the annual garden fete. We made over £700. Thanks must go to Janet Campen both for her superb selling techniques and the plants Janet provides for sale, which she has grown from seed or cuttings. Thanks also to Sheila Chapman who very generously gave many clematis for us to sell and this certainly boosted our takings.

Following the fete, the next event was our second summer visit which was at Spencers near Great Yeldham, currently owned by the Courtauld family. Approximately 15 members of the Gardening Club made the trip to Spencers. The garden consists of a beautiful walled garden, which was full of many beautiful plants and vegetables and a woodland garden. After the walk round the garden we were invited into the house for tea and cakes to round off a very enjoyable visit.



Members of the gardening club enjoying Spencers



Long borders at Spencers



Editorial by Linda Nelson

The last two months have again been busy for villagers, normal club activities have taken place as well as the fete and the VDS public consultation. I hope some of you will try out the new dance class that is starting in August. I hope to have a go myself.

The farmers have been busy - the hay is in and soon the crops will be being harvested. The wonderful weather we have been having will hopefully ensure a bountiful harvest.

The villages are having the electricity cables upgraded so we are seeing various works going on and many CPD vans around the villages. This is causing some disruption on the roads, but hopefully once the work is done the power supply should be more reliable and not cause low voltage problems - which is, I believe, the reason the work is being done.

The cases of swine flu are continuing to increase and sadly there has now been a death of an individual in Essex who did not have underlying health problems. If you should feel ill there is a self diagnostic tool on the NHS website: www.nhs.uk or www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu, which you or your families can use to decide if you have swine flu and what actions to take if you become ill. I am sure that everyone will rally round and help each other if there is a need.

Lost Your Job?

- *Losing your job is a shock
- *You may pretend it hasn't happened
- *Tell your family and friends
- *It's not your fault
- *You have a future

1. Tell your family and friends what has happened and how you feel. They care about you and will listen
2. Ask your employer about other jobs in the organisation. Ask for time to look for jobs outside the organisation, while you are working your notice. Ask about redundancy payments. Ask about your pension rights. Make sure you get your P45 from your employer. Get contact details from friends at work to keep in contact with them. VISIT www.dti.gov.uk/employment/redundancy
3. Contact Jobcentre Plus: 0845 602 3805 and register. Don't delay; it could affect your income. Registration and applying for Job Seekers Allowance is now done on the phone. Book an appointment with a Personal Advisor at your local Jobcentre Plus office to discuss finding a new job, training and other benefits. Take your P45 and two recent payslips to your first interview.
4. If you have redundancy pay, check with your Personal Advisor at Jobcentre Plus before you spend it. This may affect your right to benefit.
5. Seek good financial advice. Do not use the services of door to door adviser. They charge high interest rates. Try your local Credit Union instead.
6. Watch your spending. Review any standing orders, HP agreements, or finance contracts on purchases. If you are worried about meeting payments seek help from your local Citizens Advice Bureau, or the Consumer Credit Counselling Service – Freephone 0800 138 1111 or visit www.cccs.co.uk or www.nationaldebtline.co.uk or Christians against Poverty at www.capov.org
7. If you rent a flat or a house; you may now be entitled to a rent allowance, or housing benefit, or a rebate on your

council tax bill. Check with your local council. If you have a mortgage, tell your Building Society or lender, and ask if they can reduce your mortgage. Don't use any redundancy money to pay off the mortgage before you have spoken to your Personal Advisor at Jobcentre Plus.

8. Keep in touch with your own Trade Union. They can offer advice and support. If you are not a union member, the secretary of your local Trades Council may be able to help.
9. Many jobs come through friends and relatives. So tell everyone you know that you are looking! Look at Jobcentre Plus, visit the local library, search the newspapers, and register with agencies.
10. Build a new routine every day and every week that allows you time off. As well as job-seeking, what about a course at the local college, or helping at a local charity or working an allotment with a few friends, or taking up a hobby?

Sometimes you may feel alone – but your family and friends care about you, and others are there to help and advise. DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK. YOU ARE WORTH IT!!

This leaflet was produced by the Rev. Raymond Draper from similar leaflets produced by the Scottish Churches Industrial Mission, the Christians Unemployment Group, Worcestershire Industrial Mission, Essex Churches Council for Industry and Commerce and the Rev Alison Finch, Colchester Workplace Chaplain.

Chignal Parish Council Meeting

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11th MAY 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Chris Philpot was re-elected as Chairman and Martyn Towns re-elected as Vice-Chairman

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A parishioner emphasized the need for a 40 mph speed limit in Chignal St. James and the Chairman explained that speeding in the Parish is an ongoing problem but the situation will be monitored for future reference.

Concern was expressed that potholes in the Parish are getting steadily worse. The Highways Department has confirmed that work will be carried out later in the year. Questions were asked on the current situation with the planning application for the extraction of gravel and formation of a reservoir opposite the Village Hall. It was explained that the report for committee has still to be finalised and will not be completed in time for the May Committee.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING ON 9th MARCH 2009

The problems with flooding at Langley's Corner have been resolved and thanks were expressed for the work done to clear the problem.

It was confirmed that Chignal will not be entering the Best Kept Village and Churchyard Competitions.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked all the volunteers who turned out for the 'Litter Pick' on 21st March.

The Chairman attended the AGM of the VDS Committee and thanked the Committee for all the progress it had made.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillors were elected en bloc to continue with their existing responsibilities

PLAYING FIELDS - the grass has been cut and the benches stained with a preservative.

VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – it was reported that a further grant of £10,000 has been received from the Lottery Fund for works to be carried out to improve the car park.

NEWSLETTER INCL. WEBSITE – assistance was offered to help ensure an earlier distribution.

GRAVEL LIAISON – the next liaison meeting will be held on 14th July. It was reported that the resurfacing to Pengymill Lane and work to the culvert have not been carried out and the Clerk was requested to write to Lafarge asking when remedial work is expected to commence.

FOOTPATHS /BRIDLEWAYS – notification has been received from ECC that money is available for any repair work necessary to bridleways.

It was reported that ECC are proposing to divert parts of Footpaths 7 and 10 and notification of the proposals is expected shortly.

The Planning Department will be contacted regarding the legality of the stile erected on the Green.

VDS – it was reported that a new draft has been submitted to the Borough Council and a public consultation will take place from 10 – 12 noon on Saturday 27th June 2009.

COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Councillor Aldridge reported that the proposal for ECC to act as a bank providing funding for viable small businesses is progressing. He explained that the Highways Department is trying to fill potholes throughout Essex and a reference number is available through the website for reporting problems.

Councillor Chambers reported that her last surgery on 4th April had been well attended and she is now a cabinet member for Corporate Service so will no longer serve on the Planning Committee.

PLANNING

Gravel extraction and formation of a reservoir opposite the Village Hall – further information is awaited on the date for submission to Committee

Maple View – garage and conservatory – the application has been withdrawn

The Old Rectory – extensions – observation will be sent to the Borough Council

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Parishioners were reminded that the Village Fete will take place on Saturday 6th June starting at 1 p.m. at Woodhall Farm.

It was reported that the request for the telephone box near the Green to be given 'listed building' status has been refused.

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2009/10

Meetings to be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 13th July 2009, Monday 7th September 2009, Monday 9th November 2009, Monday 11th January 2010, 7.00 p.m. Monday 9th March 2010 followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8 p.m. and the Annual General Meeting at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 10th May 2010.

Brand New Class for Adults!

We will be launching a brand new class at the Chignal St James Village Hall on Monday 3 August 2009.

Dance Fusion

Whether you enjoy Latino moves, Broadway show style, or 70s Disco, this class brings it all together to get a show stopping aerobic workout whilst socializing with like minded adults.

Come and join us for our launch day on **Monday 3 August at 11am** and receive a complimentary tea or coffee afterwards.

All ages welcome.

Class fee is £5 per class or £4 when you buy a block of 6 or 10 weeks.
Additional info:

Sparkle Dance & Fitness also offer classes in Fitness Yoga, Body Conditioning and Tap Dance as well as running 3 successful children's dance schools.

Places are limited. Contact us for more info and to reserve your place.

Look forward to meeting you!

info@sparkledanceandfitness.com

01245 468803

07824 666415



Three Elms



Mark and Tina from the Three Elms being presented with their plaque recommending the Three Elms pub for their beer by a representative from the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

St. Nicholas' Church

Greetings to you all from St. Nicholas Church

Summer has come and at the time of writing, it is the season of cricket, tennis, strawberries and cream; however, for many the season is bringing times of intense uncertainty, the fear of losing jobs and homes, for others times of ill health or loss of family members and friends.

The world seems to be in a total mess, financially unstable, daily occurring crime, increasing viruses and pollution. Confidence and trust in politicians and leading figures has gone, making it a time when we need to increasingly trust our faith and personal beliefs, and support our family and friends.

If you have been affected by any of these issues and would like support, please do not hesitate to contact me, if I cannot help, it is quite likely I will know someone who can. You may prefer to speak to a clergyman; our Rural Dean is the Rev. Canon Carl Hampton, vicar of Great Waltham with Ford End, telephone number 364081. Other sources of help amongst others include Citizens Advice Bureau and the Samaritans..

During the summer we have the baptism of three young children; two of which are local, the third having strong connections with the village, to look forward to.

On Saturday August 15th, we are holding a church open day from 11am to 3.30pm. Tea and coffee will be provided; some of the church archives will be available for viewing. You are all warmly invited and we hope to see many of you.

The Friends of Essex Churches Sponsored Ride and Stride is to be held on Saturday September 12th. Sponsor forms are available at the back of the church. We always get many visitors to our little church and if you feel able to help as a steward, your time would be very much appreciated. Our cycling guests appreciate a friendly face.

Sunday October 4th 3pm is when we will be celebrating and giving thanks to God for our Harvest. You are all warmly invited to the service followed by tea in the village hall. We will be collecting tinned tomatoes to be sent to Eastern Europe via Harvest for the Hungry. This proved to be very popular last year.

We hope you all enjoy the summer and look forward to seeing you. You are warmly welcome to join us for Sunday worship at 11am.

Tony Towns – Church Warden - 440241



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

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

Email: chignalswe@btinternet.com

Items for next Newsletter to editor by 17th August 2009