



Garden Fete & Vintage Rally 2011

The sun was baking hot and the crowds came out in force on the afternoon of Saturday 4th June 2011 to enjoy this most traditional of events in our annual calendar. This is a very important event to keep the Village Hall running, the event raised in excess of £2,400, which was up on the previous year. Thanks to Sandra (not David) Bailey who provided some snapshots of the day, more photos can be viewed on the website.



Moths in the Garden by Moira Tarrant

Most people would be very surprised by the staggering number of insects that probably visit their garden. An excellent example of this diversity is moths. We all know about protecting crops and clothes from pest species and see the occasional visitor to lighted windows and porch lights. But it might come as a surprise to learn that since I started to study the moths that visit my garden 17 years ago, I have identified and recorded over 520 different species. These range from the huge and exotic-looking Hawk Moths down to micro-moths like the Diamond-backed which, although only a couple of millimetres long, arrives like the swallows from the Mediterranean in spring. My garden is average size and boasts no special features apart from a small pond. Of greater significance in terms of moth numbers are nearby mature oak and ash trees as well as a good number of common hedgerow trees.

It is often said that butterflies are beautiful whereas moths are dull brown little things. In my experience, the vibrant pinks and greens of a freshly emerged Elephant Hawk-moth rivals anything that butterflies can offer. Moths are usually coloured either to camouflage or to confuse. It is astonishing how successfully the almost artificial looking jade-green and black Merveille du Jour can disappear when sitting on a lichen-covered tree-trunk. And the bright red bars on the Cinnabar and striking “eyes” on an Eyed Hawk-moth both warn off would-be predators.

To study moths an overnight light-trap is usually used. The bright light emitted attracts moths which are funnelled safely past the light into the cool, dark interior of the trap where they quickly settle. Old egg boxes make a good surface as the rough texture gives their feet a good grip. Next morning they can be identified and counted and then released in a way which keeps them from becoming an easy target for birds. Records are sent to become part of the Essex database of moth species and distribution. I also contribute to the Garden Moth Scheme - a nationwide group which systematically records occurrence of a list of commoner species. It is data like this which, over the years, enables us to measure the health of wildlife in our countryside. Moths, after all, are a pretty vital part of the food chain, sustaining bats and thousands of birds and their chicks as well as some mammals.

If you are interested in finding out more about the moths in our local countryside, contact me at m.tarrant@virgin.net.
Moira Tarrant, Mashbury

Limehawk Moth



Merveille Moth



Women's Institute

In April Mr. Patrick Forsyth gave a very interesting account of his 'Journey into print' starting off with technical handbooks and literally changing direction to become a travel writer. He managed to persuade his publishers to provide first class tickets and set off to explore the lesser known areas of the far east. His work is full of fascinating detail told with a light hearted touch. In May we discussed the two resolutions which will be presented at the National AGM in June. I'm going to this AGM in Liverpool representing four WIs, Chignal, Great Waltham and two in Broomfield. After our discussion we had a return visit from Mrs. Sheila Mullaly, Sheila told us about her trip to Iceland in January, this time she told us about her snowbound week in Norway. Sheila is a great story teller and we all enjoyed her talk. In June we are having our garden meeting at Lees Farm, Good Easter, the weather looks promising so far!

July 7th The magic and beauty of Precious stones Mr. David Vroobell

August 4th From wheelchair to wind surfer Mr. Peter Parker.

Visitors are always welcome

Myra Wilkins (440 659)



Art Group.

In April Janet and Anita talked about the course they had attended dealing with various tones of green. Some successful paintings resulted and certainly will add to improving our landscape work. In May we looked at the language of flowers and how flowers were used in ancient manuscripts and books on healing. Shakespeare also uses the language of flowers, everyone knows 'the bank where the wild thyme grows'. Anemones, iris and passion flowers were then painted.

Details Myra (440 659)

Editorial by Linda Nelson

Hi, I hope you will all enjoy a couple of new features in this addition, please feel free to e-mail an item you think might interest our community and I will try to include them in future editions.

If you are not already aware we now have three new parish councillors so please try to come along to parish councils meetings and meet the new parish council.

Life is as busy as ever, between work, home and horses there never seems to be enough time in the day. A friend of mine retired recently, she is as busy as ever but doing different more enjoyable activities, such as joining me and two other friend for a girlie trip to Barcelona. We had a great time, despite the weather, as we experienced some torrential downpours, it was not cold and we did get some sunny days. We visited both the cathedrals, which are very different from each other but both are beautiful. The history and construction of the "unfinished" cathedral is especially interesting. I hope some of you may get a chance to visit Barcelona. I was; however, a bit disappointed with the Olympic site in Barcelona - it was one of my iconic images of Barcelona. I hope our Olympic legacy will be more enduring. I was one of the lucky ones to get tickets to an Olympic event - not the eventing or cycling, which I really wanted but beach volleyball. I wonder if many of you got tickets - I intend to apply for some tickets for the paralympics when the ballot opens, hopefully these will sell well too.

At the end of September, I am helping out; by driving the "crew" van, for a charity bike ride my brother is organising from Southend in Scotland to Southend-on-Sea, in aid of several charities including Fair Havens Hospice, who were wonderful to us when our mother died there. We are setting up a site for sponsorship and hopefully some of you will be willing to sponsor us. I will provide more information in the next edition.



“Something Old - Something New”

The Group met on Friday the 10th of June 2011 at the Village Hall and it is very pleasing to report that following the previous month's “Blind Tasting” competition, the attendance was once again a very healthy one with 25 Members present.

The evening was conducted by Chairman Norman Smith with three Members making a presentation entitled “Something Old - Something New” based upon “Old World” and “New World” wines consisting of three whites and three reds.

The wines in order of presentation were as follows: -

- 2009 Vionta Albarino, Rias Baixas, Galicia, Spain @ £11.99
- 2007 Grand Cru Brand, Cave de Turckheim, Riesling, Alsace, France @ £15.85
- 2008 Ramey, Chardonnay, Sonoma Valley, California, USA @ £35.75
- 2007 Dopff and Irion, Les Connelles, Pinot Noir, Alsace, France @ 11.95 Euros
- 2000 Vina Ardanza Reserva, La Rioja Alta, Spain @ £17.00
- 2005 as Vineyard, Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California, USA @ £38.30

All prices quoted above are per single bottle

The Group were certainly entertained and enjoyed a well balanced selection of wines that had been carefully selected to not only meet the criteria and theme for the evening, but also with both quality and value for money in mind.

Lee Bailey gave a firsthand account of a recent visit that he had made with his wife Sandra to Alsace in France hence the two wines from that region whilst Steve Lucas concentrated on wines from Galicia and Rioja in Spain and Geoff Newell presented two very impressive wines from California, USA.

At the end of the presentation, Chairman Norman Smith proposed a sincere vote of thanks to Lee, Steve and Geoff which was endorsed by all of the Members with acclamation.

Next Month : -

The Group continue to meet on the second Friday of every month throughout the year with the exception of August.

The July meeting/tasting, as has become customary, will be centred around a BBQ and this will be held on **Friday the 15th of July 2011** so please make a note in your Diary.

The venue and start time for the above event will be advised to Members by Chairman Norman Smith by e-mail as soon as it is known.

Looking ahead : -

The next Tasting will be on Friday the 9th of September 2011 commencing at 8.00pm in The Village Hall.

Anyone who is interested in joining or attending should contact the Honorary Secretary Dave Thomas on 01245 442474.

Steve Lucas, CSJ Wine Discovery Group, Publicity Relations Officer

Gardening Club

There have been several activities since the last edition. The first was a visit to “Oliver's” near Colchester in May. Unfortunately, the weeks of wonderful weather broke, so we did experience some rain, but ardent gardeners to a man and woman, we did not let that spoil our enjoyment of this lovely garden.

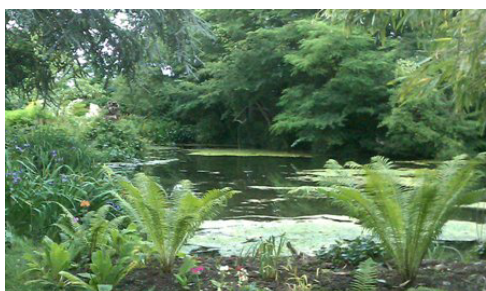
As usual, the garden club ran a plant stall at the Village fete in June, we raised over £700 towards the Village Hall funds. Many thanks to Janet Campen for growing so many of the plants and vegetables, and also other garden club members and local nurseries that provided items, including trees for sale. This year, vegetables were again a popular choice, with squash being much in demand, so much so that we sold out! Richard and Alyson; former members, who now live in Norfolk, popped in to catch up with “garden club gossip” when they paid a visit to fete this year, it was lovely to see them again.

The June visit was to Feeringbury Manor, this was a very natural garden with many unique and interesting plants and trees in it. It always amazes me how knowledgeable people in the club are, as someone in the club always seems able to answer the question about what the name of an unknown plant is. (Occasionally, even I can do this, which amazes me!). One of the son's of the household is a sculptor so there were some interesting examples of his work in the garden. John and Mick were particularly interested in the barn and the construction of the roof. The barn is going to be featured on Grand Designs in September. The weather held out and we were able to enjoy a chat whilst we had tea and cake.

As an additional bonus in June, Mary-Jane and John hosted our club supper at Pengymill, traditionally committee members contribute food, I did a no-bake cheesecake and a summer berries fruit salad, the former recipe was obtained from the Internet, as I tried to think of what to make, and the latter from a low fat recipe book I had. The food as ever was wonderful, most people had seconds of the salmon and coronation chicken, but still retained room for the sumptuous selection of desserts. The choice was amazing. The garden was lovely and we all enjoyed a very pleasant evening. Many thanks once again to Mary-Jane and John for hosting this event.

Our next visit is on Wednesday 20th July at 7.00 p.m. “Orchard Cottage”, 219 Hockley Road, Rayleigh SS6 8BH. There are no events in August, so the first event of the Autumn; at the Village Hall on Wednesday 21st September 2011, is a talk on “Outdoor Vegetables through all Four Seasons” by Mrs Maiké Windhorst an organic gardener for almost five 5 decades. Please come along, new members are always welcome. I hope you enjoy the photos below, I will publish more on the Chignals website. I hope to see you at club events - Linda

Visits to Oliver's (top) and Feeringbury Manor



North Melbourne Library

Our new opening hours for North Melbourne will commence from 5th July 2011:

Tuesday 9.00 – 5.00

Friday 9.00 – 5.00

Saturday 9.00-5.00

Essex Libraries will be inviting children to share in all the thrills and spills of the Big Top by taking part in our summer reading challenge '**Circus Stars**'. As they read their books children will be awarded stickers to collect on their 'Circus Stars' stage. Our summer reading challenge will begin with a special activity day on **Saturday 16th July 10:00-12:00**. Children can join the challenge at any time during the summer holidays, they need to read 6 books and all children who complete the challenge will receive a medal!

For older children and teenagers there is a separate activity called **Show Time**. Participants are encouraged to be the judge and vote for their favourite act! Read a variety of books, find information and complete quizzes to move on to the next challenge. Rewards will be given for every two cards which are completed.

Can't get to the library? - use the Home Library Service.

Don't stop using the library just because you can't get to it. New members are always welcome for the Home Library Service. The Home Library Service visits those people who can't get to their local Library because of age, disability or caring responsibilities. It brings books and DVDs from the library straight to your home for you to enjoy.

North Melbourne library run a Home Library Service with the help of the local community. These volunteers make pre-arranged calls at the home of library members who can't reach a library building or a mobile library.

Mandy Simioni – Library Supervisor

North Melbourne Library (Attached to Newland Spring School)

Dickens Place, Cooperfield Road, Chelmsford

Tel: 01245 442292

Mashbury Neighbourhood Watch

Regular updates on recent crime in Chelmsford and advice on crime prevention are now available from the Police. To receive them, let me have an e-mail address and I will add you to those residents already receiving this information. If you know of someone who would really like to get this information but doesn't have e-mail, let me know and a hard copy can be arranged.

Many thanks

Moira Tarrant
Chair, Mashbury Parish Meeting
m.tarrant@virgin.net

Free Event - Setting Up An Allotment or Orchard

SETTING UP AN ALLOTMENT OR ORCHARD
Friday 29th JULY 2011 – 10.00 – 13.00
RCCE Conference Room, Feering, CO5 9SE

As part of the Edible Essex Project, RCCE is organising a free event which will take place on Friday, 29th July at its offices in Feering. The event is aimed at groups from all over Essex, such as Parish Councils, who would like to, or are in the process of setting up an allotment and/or orchard.

The event will be led by Karen Kenny, Eastern Region Representative for the [National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners](#), who will talk about how to get started, what you need to provide and basic allotment management.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To find out more and to register, please email sophie.blythe@essexrcc.org.uk

Sophie Blythe
Edible Essex Project Manager
Rural Community Council of Essex,
Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road, Feering, Essex CO5 9SE
Tel: 01376 574 330 Fax: 01376 573524
Email: sophie.blythe@essexrcc.org.uk
Web: www.essexrcc.org.uk

NB: I currently work Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Reg Charity No.: 1097009 Reg Company No.: 4609624

Chignal Parish Council

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 16th MAY 2011.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Thanks were expressed to the three outgoing councillors.

Two police officers attended the meeting and it was explained that incidents could be notified to any mobile police station.

Parishioners were encouraged to set up groups to take part in the 'Walk for Life'.

Concern was expressed that travellers, evicted from a site in Basildon, could move into the area and anything suspicious should be reported to the police as soon as possible.

An incident with cattle escaping from Brittons Hall Farm on to private property and the highway has been investigated.

An invitation was extended to the police to attend the Village Fete on 4th June at Woodhall Farm.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Chris Philpot was elected as Chairman and Martyn Towns as Vice-Chair.

CO-OPTED MEMBER

Lynn Ballard was co-opted on to the Parish Council.

DECLARATIONS OF OFFICE AND OF INTEREST

The declarations were signed by all members of the Parish Council.

ELECTION OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Councillors were appointed as follows:

Playing Fields – Gordon Lee and Martyn Towns, Village Hall Liaison – Gordon Lee and Martyn Towns, Newsletter – Linda Nelson and Malcolm Feltwell, Gravel Liaison – Malcolm Feltwell and Lynn Ballard, Village Watch – Chris Philpot, Highways – Julia Smart and Malcolm Feltwell, Footpaths and Bridleways – Linda Nelson and Lynn Ballard, Telephone Box – Malcolm Feltwell and Tree Warden – Julia Smart.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed the three new Councillors and thanked the three retiring members for their dedication and hard work.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLAYING FIELDS – two cuts to the grass have been carried out.

VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – improvements to the kitchen area will be discussed at the next meeting.

NEWSLETTER INCL. WEBSITE –

More information for the website would be appreciated.

GRAVEL LIAISON – it was reported that preventative noise screening bunds are being raised to the south of the cell. A local resident has complained at the odour escaping from the infill and the matter has now been resolved. A 24 hour odour hotline has been set up to deal with future problems tel. no. 0800 80 70 60. A liaison meeting was held on 4th May when it was announced that the Cemex Plant has now been totally removed with only the Electricity Plant still in place. A low level restoration is proposed which will retain the standing. The steep banks to the west of the site will be regraded to ensure future stability.

HIGHWAYS – no problems were reported but parishioners should be encouraged to contact ECC direct if problems do arise.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS – some bridleways have been regrassed.

TELEPHONE BOX – a lock will be fitted shortly.

PLANNING

Forge Cottage – replacement outbuilding – approved

No decisions have been made on other outstanding planning applications.

LATE URGENT BUSINESS

- a) It was agreed to invite the Emergency Planning Officer to the next meeting.
- b) The possibility of ownership of the Village Green was discussed and all councillors voted in favour of the proposal to continue correspondence with CBC to acquire the Green for the Parish.
- c) Research is continuing into the 'Special Expenses' paid by Chignal residents to C.B.C.

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2011/12

Meetings will be held in the Village Hall as follows:

7.30 p.m. on Monday 11th July 2011, 7.30 p.m. on Monday 12th September 2011, 7.30 p.m. on Monday 14th November 2011, 7.30 p.m. on Monday 9th January 2012, 7 p.m. on Monday 12th March 2012 followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 8 p.m., Annual General Meeting at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 14th May 2012.

Farming Life by Chris Philpot

1st Place in the Chelmsford and Hanningfield Agricultural Society Farms Competition! It's been eleven years since we last won but I have just heard that Boyton Hall Farm has done it again.

Every year all the farms in the Borough have the chance to enter this competition. Two judges, from out of the area, visit and assess the farms for the quality of their growing crops, the environmental and conservation work undertaken, management and general impression. As I mentioned last time I wrote an article, staff are crucial to the success of any business and they must be congratulated for their input on this occasion.

We certainly take pride in everything we do here and it is rewarding occasionally to get a 'pat on the back' when so often one gets the impression from those outside the rural community that everything we do is wrong or bad.

Many people have mentioned to me recently the lack of rain recently; I currently estimate we will be harvesting the crops this year two weeks earlier than ever before. Having water collected from the River Can in the winter and stored in reservoirs has helped us keep some crops alive for longer – you may have noticed as you have travelled around the village recently, irrigation taking place on beans, peas and wheat as well as our potatoes. This is also a first – desperate times call for desperate measures! We are forecasting a 50% reduction in yield on some of the wheat crops we have been unable to irrigate. I am afraid the recent rains have, we believe, come too late for some crops.

We have been busy recently constructing our new potato store and maintaining the machinery ready for the fast approaching harvest. Unfortunately management time has been wasted investigating suspicious vehicles (we have had reason to call Essex Police three times in the last week), neighbour disputes (where I am afraid people think they can extend their garden on to the farm – “what does it matter to you” being the normal first comment), two thefts and clearing up dumped household rubbish – great! However, I must say how grateful we are for the phone calls received from the locals, at any time, informing us of suspicious activity in the area. Crime, especially on farms and in rural areas, is increasing and the best form of defence is when the community works together to fight it. If you are not a member of the local Neighbourhood Watch I strongly suggest you join up, all we need is your email address.

We are now looking forward to the harvest and a busy summer – Happy Holidays!



St. Nicholas' Church

Greetings to you all from St. Nicholas Church. Several special happy occasions have been celebrated. It was very encouraging to see some children with their parents at the Mothering Sunday Service. The church looked beautiful for Easter, our special thanks to all who helped decorate it and to St. Mary's Broomfield for allowing us to receive extended communion from them. Another very happy occasion was the baptism of Scarlet Evie Noble of Beaumont Otes. Scarlet and her parents: David and Joanna, have recently moved into the parish, We wish them much happiness.

We had our 'annual general meeting' and would like to notify you that the 'officers' have remained the same: Gregg Pollack as treasurer, Myra Wilkins as secretary and myself as church warden. We are able to confirm with you that we have paid our family purse in full. Special thanks to those of you who support us financially. We are very grateful to you all. We are very aware of the support that some parishioners give, who do not worship regularly with us. Our special thanks also to those who contribute in other ways. Many of you will know of Reg Morris, who has for many years regularly conducted a monthly service and has officiated at several funerals. He has recently moved to Braintree and feels it is time to resign from being a lay reader. We are very grateful to him for all he has done and wish him well in his new home.

A polishing morning is to be held on Tuesday July 12th from 10 a.m. onwards (see separate notice). Several people have already volunteered to help, your time would be much appreciated.

We wish you all well as you prepare for holidays, days out and bar-be-ques with family and friends. Very best wishes to you all.

Tony Towns Church Warden (Tel 440241)



From the Church Register:

Baptism Scarlet Evie Noble on 29th May 2011.

Dates for your Diary





Morning Worship 11 a.m. every Sunday.

Polishing morning St. Nicholas Church on Tuesday July 12th from 10 a.m. onwards
Dusters and polish supplied.

Your help would be much appreciated - for more details phone Helen on 440241.

Friends of Essex Churches Sponsored Ride & Stride - September 10th

Sponsor forms for the event will be available at the back of the church nearer the time or phone Helen on 440241

		
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