



Editorial by Linda Nelson

We have a new vicar: the Reverend Caroline Brown, who was licensed at Great Waltham Church on 3rd May. The service was a very ancient ritual with a modern interpretation, which made it a very joyous occasion. Caroline has contributed her first article in this edition.

We also have a new chair of the parish council; following Chris Philpot resignation as Chairman, Lynn Ballard was duly elected as chair of the Chignals Parish Council.

Lynn and I attended Caroline's first service at St Nicholas church on 16th June (Father's Day). I have to say the service was fun and interactive, so please support Caroline and come along to a service. Later on the same day Lynn and I represented the Chignals at a service in Chelmsford Cathedral to celebrate the Queen's coronation. It was a very stirring occasion with echoes of the coronation.

I am sure many of you are aware that the road to St Nicholas Church had to be closed recently due to the fly-tipping of asbestos waste (pictures below). The parish council; especially Lynn, was very active in getting this resolved, and we are following up the slow response in clearing the hazardous waste with Cllrs Chambers and Aldridge.

I am sure you are aware that the Pig and Whistle has re-opened, so welcome to Brian, Brendan and Linda, who are the new tenants of the "Pig". They are all very welcoming and I am sure will run many activities in the future. The Three Elms pub also holds many events (Photo below of Morris Men), so please support both pubs as they are essential parts of community life.



Blackmore Morris Men
at the Three Elms Pub (right)



Fly Tipping of asbestos roof tiling in
Chignal Smealey (Left and above)



Chignal Wine Discovery Group

At our April meeting Alan Judes from a Company called Wines for Drinking gave a presentation of wines from Southern Portugal. Alan operates his business from his home in North London and imports wines from the Algarve and Alentejo regions. We tasted three white and three red wines. Portugal is generally known for its excellent red wines but what surprised many members was the high quality of the white wines. The wines tasted were:

1. Primeira Seleccao Branco 2011 - white
2. Torais 2011 - white
3. Grace Viognier 2011 - white
4. Selecta Tinta 2010 - red
5. Torais 2007 - red
6. Grace Touriga Nacional 2009 - red

The evening was completed with a Portugese Brandy. All present agreed that it was a most enjoyable and enlightening evening.

In May we were visited by Emmanuel Taupin who is the new manager of the Adnams wine shop in Saffron Walden. Emmanuel's theme for the evening was Bordeaux Blends from around the world. Five wines were tasted one each from Australia, Argentina, New Zealand, France and South Africa. There was a slightly mixed reaction to the wines and one interesting outcome was that the wine from France, the traditional home of Bordeaux style wines, was one of the least well received. The wines were:

1. Juniper Crossing Cabernet/Merlot, Margaret River, Australia 2006
2. Flores Blend, Bodegas Gouguenheim, Mendoza, Argentina, 2007
3. Cornerstone Cabernet/Merlot/Malbec, Newton Forrest. New Zealand 2005
4. Moulin d'Angludet, Margaux, Bordeaux, France 2007
5. Seismic, Saronsberg Estate, Coastal Region, South Africa 2007

Based on sales at the end of the evening the Seismic from South Africa was clearly the most popular wine despite being the most expensive. Once again another most enjoyable evening.

Norman Smith



Village Hall Fete 2013

This year's fete was held at the village hall and playing field and raised over £2,000 profit for village hall funds.

The change of venue worked well, with the cream teas being served in and around the hall alongside the art exhibition, and the stalls and games outside in the garden and on the field. A popular new attraction this year was short 'taster' rounds of golf croquet, courtesy of the newly formed village club. Attendance was high in spite of the breezy weather, and the vintage vehicle and machinery enthusiasts continued to support the event with a varied display of tractors, engines and classic cars.

The village hall committee would like to thank all those people whose hard work made the fete so enjoyable and successful, in particular Chris Philpot who generously allowed us the use of his meadow next to the playing field for car parking, the army cadets for their assistance, and also all those non committee members - including the children - who put so much time and effort into organising, setting up and running stalls and games. Thanks must also go to all those people who donated items to sell and to give as prizes.

We look forward to seeing you all again at next year's fete which is always on the first Saturday in June.



Bowl's Club

A day's bowling took place on 11th May in the Village Hall, with pairs competing for the Mike Bell Trophy. After a good days bowling, ending at about 4,p.m., the Winners were Gordon and Emma, with Sharon and John being Runners-up. The day was completed with an enjoyable meal at the Rose and Crown in the evening, when the winners were presented with the Trophy, and the runners-up, with their prizes.

Many of our Club Members were helping with various games at the recent Fete, and were kept very busy, many thanks for their hard work. We have played two matches recently, both away, one against Black Notley and the other against Little Waltham, winning both matches.

OPEN EVENING

We are having an open evening to introduce bowling to those interested to try it. A cup of tea, biscuit and a chat, all ages welcome. Do come and see us on JULY 18th from 7.30pm onwards.

Ann Coates



The Chignals & Mashbury Jubilee Community Orchard

Yet again the sun shone at the appropriate moment when Phil Taylor from Lathcoats, along with Lynn Ballard announced that our Orchard was officially open.

On Saturday 18th May around 50 villagers and friends gathered whilst Phil cut the jubilee ribbon surrounding the Mulberry tree, children then danced in a ring to celebrate and tagged balloons were set free with the hope that we may find out how far they travelled. The Mulberry tree was dedicated to Gordon Lee who died earlier this year.

There was an opportunity to 'Adopt a tree' and watch the tree tags being hammered. Funds were boosted by a raffle as well as money raised by the tree adoption scheme. Phil Taylor brought along samples of Lathcoats own apple juice for us to try. Needless to say it went down very well!

A real community spirit could be felt that morning with children and adults alike enjoying what will surely be a pleasant place to share.

Most of the orchard trees have now been adopted, but there may still be an opportunity to adopt or dedicate a tree. If you would like further details please email: Simon Leadbeater at simonleadbeater@hotmail.com.

We want you all to feel that this is your Orchard, and whilst there is a small committee that has steered the project through so far, we invite you all to put forward ideas for future events, and perhaps share in its maintenance and development. Please email chignal.mashburyjubileeorchard@hotmail.co.uk with your ideas and thoughts.

Most of all we want you to enjoy what is a great addition to our wonderful villages.

Sandra Bailey





The Chignals & Mashbury Jubilee Community Orchard

Our unusual tree - the Mulberry

Most of our trees in the Community Orchard are well-known fruits even if the particular varieties are rare or unusual. But not everyone will have encountered a Mulberry before.

Ours is a *Morus nigra* or the Black Mulberry. Although it will, unfortunately, be some years before it fruits, the fruit which look a little like drooping loganberries are worth waiting for as they are aromatic and mouth-watering when fresh and ripe. The trees are known for becoming gnarled and picturesque as they age and the traditional situation is in the middle of a lawn with a circular wooden seat around the trunk. Also traditional is to collect the ripe fruit as they drop so a closely mown lawn is essential for clean fruit.

Black Mulberries are thought to be native to western Asia. They have been known as fruit trees as long ago as the Ancient Greeks but it was the Roman Emperor Justinian who encouraged their planting all over the Roman Empire for the production of silk. In the sixteenth century, however, the White Mulberry, *Morus alba* was found to be far better for feeding silk worms, although the White Mulberry fruit is not nearly as tasty for humans. Silk worms, of course, are the caterpillars of a large and beautiful moth which, as they pupate, spin themselves a cocoon with a fine silk thread. This silken thread can be carefully unrolled and woven into silk cloth.

You won't find Mulberries in supermarkets as they rapidly decompose when ripe so will not store or travel, although they can be frozen. Best to enjoy them using the recipe given by the well-known organic gardener Bob Flowerdew:

Take a cereal bowl with a large portion of clotted or thick cream, honey and some tea and biscuits. Sit peacefully under the Mulberry tree, savouring the tea and biscuits while waiting for enough fruits to fall to fill your bowl. Then eat them with the cream and honey!

Moira Tarrant

Coffee Morning

1st Wednesday of every month at The Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall.

Next date 7th August



Please come & join us for coffee/ tea & cake and good conversation! All welcome.

Admission £1 (includes the tea & cake!)

Don't forget, if you need help with transport you can call on the Friends of the Chignals with Mashbury Group.

Women's Institute

At our AGM in April we enjoyed a lunch catered by Mike and Jan Smail. The food was excellent and it was so well organised. After the lunch we had the annual reports. It was at this meeting I finally stepped down after being president for 12 years, I was totally overwhelmed by the kind words and very thoughtful gifts I was given. Janet now takes over so we are in safe hands.

On April the 18th Chignal hosted the annual Tindal Group with members from Galleywood, Great Baddow and Broomfield joining us for the afternoon. The speaker was author Mel Rees, an author from Farnham in Surrey. Mel gave a very amusing account of his life and times which was very entertaining. After the talk Janet and her team had prepared an excellent tea with a great variety of sandwiches and an amazing array of cakes which pleased everyone. The competition was for the prettiest scarf, so everyone came along wearing a pretty scarf which made a lovely feature for the event. Mel Rees chose his favourite scarf but not one from Chignal! This was a very successful afternoon and all the visitors enjoyed it. The WI members have been very busy knitting and at the Tindal meeting Pauline Craven, from the Smile Charity came to collect all the blankets, hats, and jumpers as well as washing powder and donations for the childrens hospital near Chernobyl. Pauline and her group travel to the Ukraine so all the items are taken directly to where they are needed.

In May we discussed the national resolution which is concerned with the decline of the High Streets in towns. Being divided into groups we were all able to express our views, our opinions were sent to Marian Garvey from Walthambury WI who will represent us at the National AGM in Cardiff in June. In July we have our Garden Meeting at Blue House, Chignal St. James and in August we have a return visit from Lyn Croot who will tell us about Tobago. Do come and join us.

July 4th Garden Meeting

August 1st Tobago Mrs. Lyn Croot.

September 5th Growing Old Disgracefully! Mr. Chris Winter

The art group still meets on the fourth Thursday.

All details Myra Wilkins 440 659

Pauline Jefferys

Pauline died recently after many years of ill health. Pauline was a wonderful member of the WI taking an interest in every aspect of its activities. Pauline attended 12 courses on music at the Denman, the WI College in Oxfordshire. You may remember Pauline played the organ at St. Nicholas for many years. Pauline had a great interest in the female novelists in English literature and she was very knowledgeable about their work. Pauline was a skilled artist with an interest in all types of art from the classics to modern; she was a lovely, friendly person with a delightful sense of humour.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Linda,

May I first introduce myself? I am Gill Caters' older (much) sister. I have just spent the most lovely afternoon at the reunion of pupils of the ex Chignal Village School. I believe it was the bright idea of Cherry and Gill (as per our invitations). I and everyone who attended, would like to give our thanks to Gill, Cherry and their helpers, for their concerted effort, the delicious buffet and their hard work. It was really appreciated.

Thank you for the Chignal News, Gill always gives me a copy, that is also much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Kitty Roberts

Gardening Club

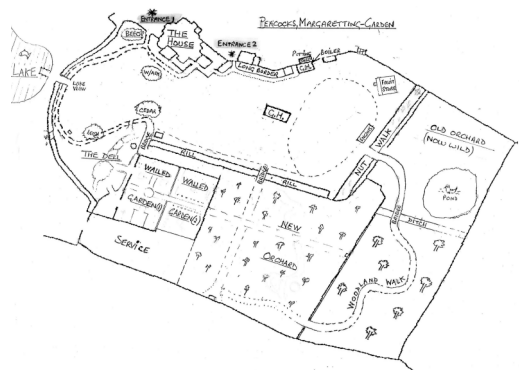
The first of this year's garden visits was to 'Peacocks' in Margaretting on Thursday 16th May. Over twenty members attended the visit despite the prediction of rain as it did stay dry. The following extract; by the owners Carol and Phil Torr, describes a short history of the garden.

For over 40 years 'Peacocks' was the home of Lord and Lady Chelmer who clearly regarded the house & garden with great affection. Interestingly they brought a quantity of stonework here originating from the Italian garden at Copped Hall near Epping and sold in a 1950's auction. Following a request we returned much of this stone to 'The Copped Hall Trust' who are embarked on a long-term restoration of the hall and garden. Lord Chelmer was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Artillery, having served on the beaches of France after the Allies had landed, for which he won a Military Cross. A famous fundraiser for the Conservatives, Lord Chelmer was to become deputy chairman of the party and later, joint treasurer. Harold Macmillan ennobled him in 1963. Lady Enid was an accomplished ballet dancer.

After acquiring 'Peacocks' in the late 1990's we set out to restore the house together with as many of the garden's features as possible. At the same time plans were laid so that 'Peacocks' would not simply be a garden museum but a place that would evolve into the new century whilst always respecting it's past. The task was all the more challenging because we wanted this evolution to be 'home grown' without professional consultation.

The earliest found reference to 'Peacocks' ('Pecokkes') is in 1421 when mention is made in the manorial records of Ingatstone Hall. Nothing else is known from it's early history but the Sidney family owned the house from 1668 until 1833 and must therefore be responsible for the house in its current form and probably overall garden plan and mature plantings. Today 'Peacocks' is mostly laid out for pleasure but over the last 100 years and more it was also a productive garden and in the 3rd quarter of the 20th century was still growing large amounts of food and flowers for the table. There was also a small-scale dairy production at the back of the house with a pasteurisation unit (now demolished) dating from the 1930's. The weather-boarded building on the terrace is a former milking parlour. There was stabling for at least 3 teams of horses and a cottage for the groom, which later became the chauffeur's cottage. One of the stables has now been converted into an artist's studio with vegetable garden beyond.

By the late 1990's the house and gardens had fallen into decay, with bramble and self-seeded trees invading every corner. The Dell for example wasn't visible at all and only discovered after subsequent clearing, to date it remains only partially restored. The Temple was in a similar condition and had become obscured and dislocated from the house. Despite appearances the walled garden is a modern creation, another is under construction where there was until recently a dilapidated swimming pool. Perhaps the most striking natural features at 'Peacocks' are the mature and specimen trees, the collection is gradually being increased. The Temple now sits on the banks of a newly created lake and can be viewed from the house. Map of garden and photo of the temple below.



Gardening Club continued

The Gardening Club ran a plant stall at the Village Fete and raised about £700 pounds towards the Village Hall funds. Many thanks to everyone; especially Janet Campen, who raised plants to sell on the stall. Our second Garden visit was to "Woodpeckers" on Wednesday 19th June, again we had more than 20 members who attended. This garden was described as follows:

Mature hedges and box topiary divide and add structure to the exuberant cottage style planting in this 1 ½ acre country garden. Spring brings fruit blossom in the orchard, wild flowers and drifts of bulbs; daffodils, tulips, alliums and cammasias all making an appearance as the season progresses towards early summer. Later there are tunnels of sweetpeas, herbs, salads and vegetables in the kitchen garden and plenty to see in the wide densely planted, loosely colour schemed borders planted with a wide variety of annuals, perennials, grasses and, in June of course, plenty of roses. Clematis and other climbers add to the picture by scrambling through shrubs, over arches and walls and up through obelisks and an abundance of pots add interest and colour to all areas of the garden.

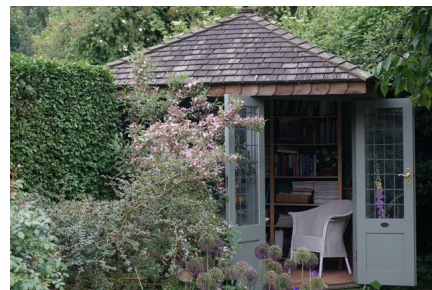
The garden certainly exceeded its description, it was full of colour and interest definitely worth another visit. The cakes were very delicious too! Some photos from the visit are below:

To remind everyone, the Garden Club annual supper is being held at Janet Campen's home: St Mary's Cottage on Wednesday 10th July at 7 pm, cost £6 per person.

Pictures from Peacocks



Pictures from Woodpeckers



Chignal Parish Council

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13th MAY 2013.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Lynn Ballard was elected as Chairman and Linda Nelson as Vice-Chair.

The outgoing Chair, Chris Philpot was thanked for all his work over the last 6 years.

ELECTION OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Councillors were appointed en bloc from the previous year.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions but a parishioner thanked the Councillors for their work over the past year including the Jubilee celebrations, the Inter-Village games and formation of the new orchard.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

PLAYING FIELDS – a croquet area has been established at the top corner of the field. The Village Fete will be held on the field on 1st June.

NEWSLETTER INCL. WEBSITE – the editor was thanked for including an article on the new vicar.

GRAVEL LIAISON- It is possible that Lafarge might be leaving the site later than expected and a site visit for residents will be arranged for July. There have been some problems with litter and Lafarge has been requested to confirm the expected height of the infill.

VILLAGE WATCH – it was reported that there has been another incident of indecent exposure locally and a break-in has occurred in the area.

HIGHWAYS – it was explained that potholes which been filled have sunk and there are a number still outstanding for remedial work. Flooded ditches and gulleys have still to be cleared by those responsible. A letter concerning the outstanding issues will be sent to County Cllr. Aldridge and Cllr Chambers will be asked to report on the 'Church Road' sign.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS – the replacement of some missing signs is still outstanding and the bridleway near Ivy Cottage is flooded and will be reported to the appropriate Department. It is proposed to organise walks along the rights of way for residents finishing at one of the coffee mornings held in the Village Hall and United Reform Church.

TREE WARDEN – the dangerous tree on the bend at Chignal St. James has been removed.

VILLAGE ORCHARD – the tree planting is complete and the costs for the project are within budget. A scheme to 'Support your orchard – Adopt a tree' for a fee of £10 for three years was approved. The mulberry tree is to be dedicated to Gordon Lee in appreciation of his many years as a Councillor for Chignal. A wild flower area has been sown and the possibility of having beehives in the orchard will be investigated.

PLANNING

Land North West of Pieces Cottage – new agricultural building – the application has been refused.

Hard Oak – temporary mobile home – the Parish Council has responded to the application and a decision is awaited.

LATE URGENT BUSINESS

- a) Superfast Broadband – ECC are still urging residents to register their need for Superfast Broadband in order to prioritise the spending of £13m available for extending this improved service to poorly served parts of the County.
- b) Litter picking – a request has been forwarded to the City Council for a litter pick later in the year.
- c) A design for a Parish logo is being investigated.

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2013/14

Meetings will be held in the Village Hall as follows:

7.30 p.m. on Monday 8th July 2013, 7.30 p.m. on Monday 9th September 2013, 7.30 p.m. on Monday 11th November 2013, 7.30 p.m. on Monday 8th January 2014, 7 p.m. on Monday 10th March 2014 followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 8 p.m., Annual General Meeting at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 12th May 2014.

Dates For Your Diary

The Parish Church of St Nicholas, The Chignals

Morning Sunday Services at 11am

7 th July:	Morning worship
14 th July:	Morning worship
21 st July:	Morning worship
28 th July:	Communion with Revd. Mike Aston
4 th August:	Morning worship
11 th August:	Morning worship
18 th August:	Communion with Revd. Caroline Brown
25 th August:	Morning worship
1 st September:	Morning worship
8 th September:	Morning worship
15 th September:	Communion with Revd. Caroline Brown
22 nd September:	Morning worship

Please note:

29th September: *10am Joint communion with Great Waltham and Ford End with Revd. Caroline Brown & Revd. Rose Braisby*

6th October: *No 11am service
3pm Harvest Thanksgiving followed by afternoon tea*

Everyone is welcome at all these services.

Prayers

Would you like us to pray for you or someone you love? Helen Towns is our prayer request co-ordinator so you can let her know your prayer requests on graysfarnessex@gmail.com or phone 01245 440241. The church is always open so you are always welcome to come and pray. There is a bowl at the back in which you can place your prayers, and we will pray them.

Parish Priest:

Revd. Caroline Brown 01245 364081 cjbrown42@hotmail.co.uk

Curate:

Revd. Rose Braisby 01245 361927 rose.braisby@btinternet.com

Churchwarden:

Tony Towns 01245 440241 graysfarnessex@gmail.com

Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings, Funerals, Prayer Requests:

Please address enquiries to Rev'd Caroline Brown. My day off is Friday.

News from Reverend Caroline

Hello! I'm happy to be here – and with a BOGOF!

You wait for a new vicar for 11 years and then 2 come along at once, rather like buses! I am really pleased to be here and have been made very welcome. But it's not only me, it's also my colleague Revd. Rose Braisby who has lived in Littley Green for over 25 years and has been ordained deacon. So if your lucky you might spot both of us. She will be writing the article for us in the next issue, but here is a bit about me.

When I came for my interview for this job when we went to Great Waltham School they asked me to describe myself in 10 words - try it sometime. It's quite hard. I think I started with step-mother, grandmother, painter, priest and then I got stuck. Luckily the teacher took pity on me and got the children to describe themselves in 3 words, which was very illuminating (and I was struck by how many of the girls had a love of horses!)

So here is a bit of a potted history. I was born in Southampton, brought up in Orpington in Kent, where my mother still lives. I went to Sussex University near Brighton and did an English degree, lived in Hackney and Walthamstow before moving to Basildon. I have had a variety of jobs from running my own small desktop publishing business to working in the NHS in mental health and my last proper job was with the Shaftesbury Society where I worked with people with learning and physical disabilities, which I loved, but God had other ideas. Initially God dragged me kicking and screaming into ministry- 'No not me, you can't be calling me, God', but eventually it became my heart's deepest desire. It is with much joy that I come to Great Waltham, Ford End, the Chignals and all the lovely little hamlets in between and beyond and look forward to getting to know you and find out what God is up to already in this place. One of my neighbours said that we are privileged to live here, and he is right.

It is a joy to be a stepmum and grandmother - not always easy, but family is very important to me, and I value good friends. It is also a joy to be married to Terry, who will be the vicar in Sandon.

When I'm not vicaring I love to throw paint about and have a studio in the garden, I love walking and running - there are so many beautiful footpaths around here. When Terry and I get a rare night out together we do enjoy going to an art gallery, seeing a play or some good food, maybe with a drop of wine!

I look forward to working with you all for the benefit of this community.

Revd. Caroline Brown

St. Nicholas' Church

Greetings to you all from St Nicholas Church.

Thank you all for the support and help you have given to St Nicholas Church over the past eleven years during which time we have had no ' Priest in Charge'. Caroline was licensed as our priest on Friday 3rd May. Many of you met Caroline at her licensing service held at Great Waltham Church or more recently in our parish. I'm sure you join with us, in wishing her a happy and fulfilling ministry as she works within our community.

My very sincere thanks to all of you who came and supported the church yard tidy-up (photo below) in preparation for our two forthcoming weddings.

Best wishes Tony Towns(church warden) Telephone number: 440241

E-mail address: graysfarnessex@gmail.com



Friends of Essex Churches Trust
SPONSORED
RIDE & STRIDE
In aid of historic Churches & Chapels.
SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2013
10 am - 6 pm

Walk or cycle round Essex churches to raise money for your church or chapel and the Friends of Essex Churches Trust. Sponsorship forms are available at the back of St Nicholas Church or by phoning Helen Towns on 01245 440241. Our visiting cyclists always appreciate a friendly face to welcome them, and encourage them on their way. If you are unable to cycle could you spare an hour or two to welcome visitors?

HELP PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

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