

Tour de France 2014

The Tour de France passed through Chignal Smealey on July 7th the weather remained fine and villagers, friends and family all participated in a great community day. Many of us dropped our cars off at the village hall and climbed aboard the transport; kindly provided by Tony Towns, before travelling across country to our vantage point at Grays Farm. It was an interesting ride and at the other end the banners were out, refreshments were provided and seating was set up so we could have a great view of the proceedings. Thanks to Tony, Helen, Kat, Kate and all the other helpers. The morning wait was spent chatting, decorating the road, catching up with friend and meeting parishioners who we had not met before.

Of course, we cheered everything that passed, there was a lot of cyclists out; taking advantage of the road closures, and cars, motorbikes and floats associated with the Tour de France - that all drove at high speed through the village and occasionally threw out some freebies. The cyclists went through in a flash and then we walked or took Tony's tractor back to the village hall for a lovely Hog Roast, cheeses and strawberries and cream. Thanks to Sandra, Sheila, Joan and Lynn and all the other helpers for organising everything and everyone who helped to put everything away. We are thinking of doing a Tour De France special so please e-mail me any photos or articles about your day to:

chignalswe@btinternet.com



Chignal Wine Discovery Group

In April we had an interesting talk on the wines of Portugal. The speaker, Sam the proprietor of VINO VERO in Leigh on Sea, explained how interesting Portuguese Wine is for many reasons. There are many regional differences and quite a few indigenous grape varieties that are not grown anywhere else. Portugal is in the midst of a wine revolution with vast improvements in quality.

Our wine tasting started with a Beyra Branco 2012 - £9.50 - 12% alc - From Beira Interior, which had been completely forgotten about until Rui Madeira, a winemaker from the Douro, returned to the area a few years ago. He has been singlehandedly responsible for reviving the area. He works to organic principles but these vineyards are not certified, though some of his others are. The wine is a blend of Siria and Fonte Cal grapes.

We went on to try the following:

Luis Pato Maria Gomes 2012 - £10 - 12.5% - From Bairrada. Luis Pato is a bit of a legend in Portuguese wine. He's really been responsible for the resurgence in table wines. His father was the first person to estate bottle wine after the Bairrada DO was formed. Before that it was all co-operatives. Although grown in Bairrada, just south of Porto, you won't see Bairrada on the label though; as Luis feels they have done nothing to preserve the heritage of the region and its varieties. This wine made from 95% of the aromatic variety Maria Gomes and 5% of Sercialinho, an almost extinct variety which adds freshness.

Maias Tinto 2011 - £9.75 - 13.5% - From Dao. Maias is an organic vineyard established in 1883 situated in the Dao, just inland from Bairrada and at higher altitude - around 650m. The plant on the logo is a type of broom that flowers in May or Maio in Portuguese and that's where the estate gets its name from. The wine is a blend of several grape varieties Jaen (known as Mencia in Spain), Touriga Nacional and Alfrocheiro. The high altitude gives the wine real freshness.

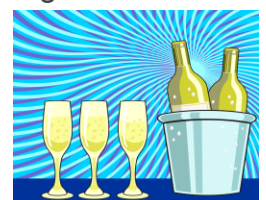
Pinga do Torto 2007 - £15.50 - 14% - From Douro. Produced by Quinta de Macedos a tiny 6 hectare organic estate situated in the Douro, the Port-making region. Pinga means drop and Torto is the name of the river alongside which the vines are planted. It was bought by Paul Reynolds in 1998 who restored some ancient vines back to good health and planted some new vines. Paul is passionate about traditional principles, so wine grapes are hand picked, foot-trodden in lagares and aged for several years in cask and bottle.

Monte da Peceguina 2011 - £16 - 14% - From Alentejo. Made by Maladinha Nova, established by the Soares family in 1988, who produce wine, olive oil, pigs and horses. They aim to balance modern equipment with traditional winemaking techniques, handpicked into very small crates to avoid premature crushing, then sorted and foot trodden in the traditional way before ageing in a cellar dug deep into the hillside. The wine is a blend of Aragonez (Tempranillo), Touriga Nacional, Alicante bouschet, Trincadeira, Tinta Muida (Graciano), Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah. It is kept 9 months in French oak barrels.

Niepoort Senior Tawny Port - £20 - 20% - From Douro. Niepoort has been family owned since it started in 1842. Siblings Dirk and Verena are the 5th generation and Dirk has driven the growth in the range of their Ports and table wines. Historically like most Port houses they bought grapes from small growers but over the last 30-40 years they have steadily accumulated their own vineyards to ensure quality. Grapes for Senior Tawny from Cima Gorgo which is regarded as the best region in the Douro and it is a field blend of many local grape varieties.

All the wines are available to order via their website (www.vinovero.co.uk)

Written by Terri Waller



Chignal Wine Discovery Group 10th Anniversary

May, saw the celebration night of the 10th anniversary of our Wine Discovery Group founded in 2003. The club was born when four friends, Sue & Graham Davies, who still belong to the club today, along with a couple called Pauline & Colin Rye, got together to find an innovative way of using the Chignal Village Hall, which would involve people from the village. An interest in wine was a common factor amongst the couples and Sue at the time, worked in the wine trade and was happy to present the basic principles of wine tasting, colour, bouquet, nose, etc.

In July of 2003 they tried out their first wine tasting, which Graham recalls was an Alsace wine. Between themselves they then planned the Wine Discovery Group around that first tasting. It was September 2003, when they launched the first group involved 6 wines and which was again presented by Sue. This time some 12 people from the village came along, including Dave Thomas who is our Secretary today along with his wife Gill.

Colin agreed to take on the role of Chairman, part of which meant finding presenters, whilst Pauline his wife, agreed to manage the village hall side of things. The original 12 assisted in all the ancillary duties associated with running a village based activity.

When Graham looks back on the last 10 years he feels they can be proud of the success of the group. He says "we have never wanted for presenters, Chairmen, Treasurers or village Hall managers", it seems everyone was more than willing to support the growing group.

The group has continued to this day, using the discussion and debate style, rather than the tutorial or lecture style, used in similar groups. We have also varied the evenings, not just in wines, but in adding blind tastings, quizzes, BBQ s and an annual Christmas dinner, which has helped us to build the social side of the group.

Increasingly new members have joined from within the village and often still attend even when they moved away. New people are also now attending from outside the village and the number of members today has grown to around 40.

These days, our evenings combine our general interest in wine, together with gaining knowledge of the styles, countries they originate from and how and with which grapes they are made from. Our Friday evenings are always a very social occasion and to this day, when the tasting is over, we still enjoy cheese, bread and biscuits to finish off the last of the wines from the evening.

The celebration evening was enjoyed by many of the members old and new. It was decided to celebrate by having taster style meals by Just cook www.just-cook.com that complimented the chosen wines that were served by Joseph Barnes Wines. www.josephbarneswines.com. I think all participants agreed it was a well thought out, well presented, finale to our first 10 years of the Wine Discovery Group and long may it continue. (Photo below)

Written by Terri Waller. With historical knowledge and help from the founder member Graham Davis. For further information about the group, please contact Dave Thomas - 01245 442474





The Chignals & Mashbury Jubilee Community Orchard

Orchard Easter Egg Hunt

On a not very inspiring Easter Sunday , weather wise, sixteen children from our villages and beyond enjoyed an hour in the Orchard and playing fields searching for eggs and clues. None were put off by the drizzle knowing that chocolate was at the end of the game! Parents and relatives also enjoyed a social gathering after the church Service on Easter Sunday and helped look for the eggs too. Yet again our Orchard has been used to full effect by friends and families with our youngsters enjoying the freedom that this valuable space brings to just have a good old run around! (Photos below:)

Sandra Bailey





The Chignals & Mashbury Jubilee Community Orchard

BBQ and Bug Night on Sunday 22nd June

The weather was definitely on our side! We could not have asked for better.

Our bug hotel was officially opened by Zoe Nuttall as she cut the ribbon and more rooms arrived throughout the evening. There is still space for more additions, so add to the hotel when you can.

Moira Tarrant showed us all some very interesting specimens of moths once the hotel was launched – here's what she found that evening in the orchard:

"During the sunny afternoon and evening, we saw both Large and Common Skippers among the wild flowers. These are beautiful burnished yellow and copper butterflies that sit strangely with their lower wings stuck out. Later, after dark, the first moth to turn up at our light was, very appropriately a Plum Tortrix. This is not the moth that leaves nasty caterpillars in our Plums. In fact, it lives on the leaves of Blackthorn. Later, around midnight, we saw some larger moths including three Mottled Beauties and a single Orange Moth (easy to recognise because it is bright orange!) In all, we saw 37 different species of moth which was a most satisfactory addition to our list of wildlife in the Orchard"

Simon Leadbeatter set up a BBQ which became laden with sausages , glasses were filled, picnics set up and a thoroughly pleasant evening was enjoyed by all. Although many of the trees were being watered that evening (along with a few of the children!) it was lovely to just sit and enjoy the orchard and not just work on it. Some pictures of the event; taken by Steve Middleditch are below:



Bowls Club

This year the Club has been busy both with social activities and with our bowling. In February, we held a Puddings Evening, starting with sausages, cooked thanks to John and Kathleen, and mashed potatoes provided by members. This was followed by a large selection of puddings, after which we had a picture quiz to finish a very nice evening.

Our A.G.M. was held in March, with the competition for the Bill Hawkes Trophy taking place first. This is between the winners of the Men's Singles and the Ladies@ Singles, which this year was a married couple, Yvonne and Martyn making a very interesting match. It resulted in a win for Martyn, but the Trophy will stand on their mantelshelf so they can both enjoy it! We followed this match with wine, cheese and biscuits after which we held the meeting. We welcomed a new member to the Committee, Kevin and thanked retiring member Sheila for her work in the past years. We had many suggestions for social activities in the coming year, many of which are planned for the next few months, and a suggestion that we should join the 'League'. This was discussed at our first Committee meeting and it was decided that we should do so, Officers were also elected with Ann continuing as Chairman, Gordon as Secretary, Kathleen as Captain and Marian, our Treasurer.

The Mike Bell Competition was held in the Village Hall on May 31st. Eight Pairs competing. Unfortunately, our Captain Kathleen was in a car accident on the way to the Village Hall and felt unable to play, but Geoff stepped into the breach and paired with Sheila, eventually reaching the Final against John and Kathleen, who were the eventual winners.

In the evening members and guests arrived for a meal in the Village Hall, catering by Mike Shmail. Lovely food and good company made for a very pleasant evening. At the end of the meal Margaret Bell presented the Trophy to John and Sharon.

The next social occasion is Pitch and Putt in June, followed by the Strawberry Supper in July. We have played matches against Black Notley, which we won, and against Broomfield when we drew. Forthcoming matches are against Pleshey and Ford End in June and away to Leaden Roding in July.

Gardening Club Visit

Gardening club visit Wednesday 11th June to the Phyllis Currie Nature Reserve (Essex Wildlife Trust), Dumney Lane, Great Leighs, Essex. This 22 acre nature reserve is an attractive and varied landscape in its own right with a large lake, secondary woodland, scrub, pine plantation and meadow. You can find out more information about the reserve on the Essex Wildlife Trust website via the following URL: <http://www.essexwt.org.uk/reserves/phyllis-currie>



Sylvia Jiggins the reserve's warden showing wild orchids in the meadow to Garden club members (left)

Keeping a look out for birds. (Right)



Three Small Parishes in Mid-Essex: **A History of the Chignals and Mashbury**

A book by local historian Tony Wilkins.
A wonderful insight into life through the generations.
This is the culmination of years of meticulous
research.



To reserve your copy (at £15 per book – payable on
collection) please call Gill Thomas on
01245 442474 or sign the list in the Village Hall.
Please Note: This is a once only opportunity – order by
31st July
or risk missing out!

All profits to the St Nicholas Church Building Fund

Village Fete & Vintage Rally 2014

The 2014 fete was held at the village hall and playing field and raised over £1,200 profit for village hall funds.

The ever popular cream teas were served in and around the hall alongside the art exhibition, and the stalls and games were outside in the garden and on the playing field. A popular attraction this year was 'target' croquet, organised by the village golf croquet club. New attendees with promotional stands were the Community Orchard group and St Nicholas Church. Attendance was good and the weather beautiful - after the earlier thunder storm had passed - 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, and all those non committee members - including the children - who put so much time and effort into organising, setting up and running stalls and games and generally helping with whatever needed to be done. There is never any shortage of work to be done and there were lots of extra willing hands this year. 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.



“FRIENDS OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY”

Do you have an occasion when you need a helping hand?

If so, we can offer for example:

Assistance with Light Shopping

Help With Attending Appointments (Doctor, Dentist, Vets etc.)

Prescription Collection / Library Book Returns etc.

Help With Seeking Advice or Filling In Forms etc.

Companionship / Someone to Talk to

Light Domestic Duties etc., etc.

We realise that you may already have a kindly relative, friend or neighbour helping you in some way at the moment. However, on the odd occasion, there may be times that they are unable to be there for you. If so, please contact us between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on any of the following telephone numbers:

01245 440528 - (Barbara), 01245 442474 - (Gill), 01245 440241 - (Helen), 01245 440880 - (Lynn), 01245 445245 - (Sandra), 01245 443497 - (Sarah), 01245 231758 - (Anne)

We would especially like to thank Anne who has recently offered her help for the “Friends of the Chignals with Mashbury” venture.

Please leave your name and telephone number if we do not answer your call immediately. We will call you back as soon as possible to discuss your individual needs.

Please call us if you need help with transport to the ‘Coffee Morning’ held on the first Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall - all are welcome.

Note: Please keep this notice handy as it might be useful one day.

Chignal Parish Council Meeting Monday 12th May

1.0 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

The Clerk opened the meeting and asked Council Members for nominations for the role of Chairman, Cllr Nelson proposed Cllr Lynn Ballard this was seconded by Cllr Philpot. Cllr Lynn Ballard was duly elected as Chairman. The Clerk asked for nominations for the role of Vice Chairman, Cllr Feltwell proposed Cllr Linda Nelson this was seconded by Cllr Philpot. Cllr Linda Nelson was duly elected as Vice Chairman.

The Chairman took the Chair and announced that she was delighted to again take on the role of Chairman for the second year and thanked Councillors for their support.

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Mr. Martyn Towns Chignal Parish Council
Cllr Mr. John Aldridge Essex County Council
Cllr Mrs Nicolette Chambers Chelmsford City Council

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Philpot declared an interest in Item 10a.

4.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

a) Members of the public were given the opportunity, at this time in the proceedings to inform debate and give comments upon Item 9d of the agenda. Cllr Feltwell explained that following the Gravel Liaison Meeting last Wednesday 7 May 2014, Chignal Parish Council discussed the proposed solutions for the problem of overtipping at the Roxwell pit. The Parish Council agreed at the meeting of 12th May that removal of the overtipped 85,000 cubic metres would be the least attractive solution because of the impact on residents from the excavation of the waste and the delay in capping the site. However, the Parish Council's preference for Option B, which was to leave the site as it is and for Lafarge-Tarmac to re-apply for planning permission was qualified and subject to substantial compensation arrangements being made by Lafarge-Tarmac to fund community projects. After receiving questions comments and suggestions for community projects, it was agreed that a response covering the following points would be put forward:

a) Those attending were concerned that the planning permission had been breached and that the community had suffered additional disruption and nuisance from noise, smell, blown rubbish and seagulls as a result. Indeed there was a strongly expressed view that the community should be compensated, because the Parish Council had not objected to the planning application some two years ago to allow the life of the landfill site to be extended and now because Lafarge-Tarmac have benefited considerably at residents' expense by the overtipping.

b) A preliminary wish list of potential community projects which included some major schemes such as repairs to the church and improvements to the village hall or even replacing it with a new building.

c) The need to consider that community projects could apply for funding from the Landfill Communities Fund but the requirement for any project to have 10% Third Party funding was potentially a significant barrier to the community being able to make best use of funding of community projects.

d) In recognition of the need for Lafarge-Tarmac to reapply for planning permission, and to alter their license for the site, also to request that some extra provisions are made for the restoration of the site. These fell into two broad areas.

1) A bridleway to be established through and around the site to connect with the existing bridleway which runs from The Green to Pengy Mill.

2) The alterations to the distribution of trees and hedges proposed in the April 2014 'Regularisation' Report are accepted as sensible. We will consider further the provision of footpaths. Restoration of historical rights of way would be helpful.

3) There were major concerns about the provision for land drainage both now and after restoration, together with concerns about ongoing responsibility for the site should the site be sold in the future.

4) We understand there are proposals to clear a ditch and historical land drain but it is not clear that this will resolve the problems. More detail about adequate drainage provision needed to be in the plans, these issues should be addressed in the proposed planning application.

5.0 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING 10 March 2014

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

6.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) **Dog Bin**-The Clerk again contacted the CCC regarding the proposal to site a dog bin on the bridleway but there had been no response. The Clerk agreed to again follow up the matter.

b) **Bus Strategy Meeting**-Members were reminded that there was to be another consultation event on Tuesday 10 June at the Essex Record Office. Those interested in attending should advise the Clerk. Arrangements would be made accordingly

c) **Tour de France**-There had been no further information. The meeting was reminded that the Chignal Road would be closed between 8am and 5pm on 7th July and there would be no access at Langleys.

Chignal Parish Council continued

7.0 COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Nothing to report.

8.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a) The meeting was advised that Members of the Employment Committee had undertaken a six month review of the Clerks appointment. Members of the PC had been especially pleased with the volume and standard of work that had been undertaken to date. In recognition of this, Cllr Nelson proposed a motion that the Clerk be awarded a £50.00 Honorarium. Cllr. Philpot seconded the motion. The motion was carried. The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Clerk had accepted the role as a permanent position.. The Clerk advised that she was delighted to take up the permanent position and thanked Members for the award.

b) A map showing a 'wish list' for the development of safe passing place in Chignal Smealy had been submitted to the Highways Panel for approval the Parish Council would be consulted after the Panel had made its decision.

c) With regard to Gardening Express, the meeting was advised that a full assessment to determine the nature of the business on the site had been carried out by an Agricultural Officer. What types of development permissions were required would be determined once the nature of the business had been established. The full report would be available next week. Recent local observations included that there seemed to be three huge lorries a day, some of the lorries having attached trailers. These were unloading, entering the village area and then turning and causing damage on the green. Some of the lorries have parked up and stayed overnight.

9.0 To APPROVE APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Philpot proposed and Cllr. Nelson seconded a motion that existing representatives be reappointed in the same positions for this year. The motion was carried.

10.0 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

a) Playing Fields

The Caravan club had recently hired the playing field. A complaint had been received from the adjoining School House property regarding the length of the grass around the croquet pitches. It was agreed that Mr Taylor the councils grass cutting contractor would be asked to deal with the matter.

b) Village Hall

The meeting was reminded that the annual Fête would be taking place on the 7th June at the village hall and playing field.

c) Newsletter Including Website

The May Newsletter had been completed. Cllr Towns would continue to co-ordinate the delivery. With regard to the web site the New Telephone Box working group had been advice that they could have a page on the website but they must update the page themselves.

d) Gravel Liaison

The report was given in Public Question Time above. Members agreed to send response

e) Village Watch

The PCSO would be attending coffee mornings each month for the foreseeable future. Local observations confirmed that Police presence had increased in the village. The meeting was reminded that people should report anything suspicious or any crimes to telephone number 101 or 999 and to ensure they were given an incident number.

f) Highways

No report at this time.

g) Footpaths/Bridleways

A note of thanks was given to the local farmers who cleared the logs and fallen debris from the autumn storm. The gate was broken and there was a post missing, this would be reported as it was the responsibility of the CCC. The foot path at Brick Barn had been moved this had created a dangerous entry/exit point. The resurrection of the 'Village Walk' was suggested. Cllr Towns and Cllr Nelson would look into the matter.

h) Telephone Box Chignal St. James

The box had now been painted. Work continues.

i) Tree Warden

Cllr. Ballard had attended a City Council course held in Tower Hamlets Cemenry. The conservation/promotion of wild life was one of the main themes. Lynn Cameron, Tree Officer from the City Council was keen to see the Orchard project. A meeting was to be arranged.

11.0 JUBILEE ORCHARD COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Orchard Committee meeting held 18 March and 23 April were noted. Outcomes of the main Orchard Committee meeting held on 12 May and sub-committee meeting on 3 June would be reported at the July Parish Council meeting.

12.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Persimmons Homes/Countryside Homes proposed developments North Melbourne and Hollow Lane were discussed. Concerns were raised that these companies were not working together to ensure proper access between the two developments. Other concerns included the lack of footpaths, cycle ways and bridleways. It was noted that 136 houses of the development fell into the Chignal

Chignal Parish Council continued

catchment area for this reason a Community Infrastructure Levy would apply. It was agreed that a representative of Countryside Homes be invited to give a presentation and answer questions at the PC meeting in July and that a meeting with CCC planners be arranged for parish councillors.

a) Decisions noted

a) Bridleway Cottage planning application proposed cart lodge. **(Permitted)**

b) Land between Marshalls and 4 Ash Rise proposed two storey house and detached garage, lay out and amenity areas, stop up existing access and form new vehicular access to Woodhall Hill. **(Permitted)**

b) New Planning Applications

a) Chignal Hall Farm. Change of Use of agricultural building to storage for Chelmsford Scouts. "There is concern about the piecemeal industrialisation of this agricultural site but given that a neighbouring barn at Chignal Hall Farm is now used by Essex Scouts to store equipment, there would be no objection to changing the use of this agricultural building to allow Chelmsford Scouts to store their assets provided that the following conditions are met: limitations are imposed on the hours of operation so that residents are not subjected to noise after 6pm and at week-ends; the use of the building as storage remains restricted to the Chelmsford and District Scout Council; the level and frequency of on-site activity and traffic movements along Chignal Hall Lane is low key and does not cause nuisance to local residents".

b) Hard Oak Mashbury Road. Temporary siting of container for 2yrs- retrospective permission. *"The metal storage container is an industrial structure that does not fit well with the rural character of the village. However, in its current location, the container is set back some distance from the road. If the container were to be painted dark brown or black and screened with a wooden fence and/or native hedgerow trees, there would be no objection provided that it was removed after two years and did not become a permanent feature."*

c) Brittons Hall Farm . Demolition of existing garage/tool shed – construction of garage/annex building. 'In principle there would be no objection to this proposed development. It would replace a weather boarded shed/garage that requires some attention with a new structure built of similar traditional materials that would appear to fit with the listed farmhouse and adjoining black weather

boarded barns. However, the height and depth of the new building is greater than the existing garage and may appear more intrusive viewed from the road'.

d) Hard Oak Mashbury Road. Single storey side extension and part two storey rear extension.

'Given recent relaxations in planning policy on house extensions, there would be no objection to this proposal as the side extension which would be most visible from the road is single story and the materials to be used would match the existing painted render, wooden window frames and slate roof. The rear extensions significantly increase the size of the original house but would not appear to be visually intrusive and in scale with the size of plot on which it stands. The application appears to be in conformity with the Chignal Villages Design Statement, 2009 (p.20,21) in that extensions should be sympathetic to the property and in harmony with the surroundings, not unduly affect adjoining residents and not completely fill the available space in order to retain views of the countryside beyond.'

13.0 FINANCE

The Clerk reported as follows:

a) A paper showing the end of year balances had been previously circulated. A note of thanks was given to Mr. David Lomas (the PC Internal Auditor who had kindly had given up his time to review and agree the End of Year Balance in the 2012/2013 accounts. Year end balances were as follows:

Community Account - £2,564.11

Business Account - £3,236.50, balance brought forward £5800.61.

Cllr Philpot proposed and Cllr Nelson seconded a motion that the accounts be approved. The motion was carried.

b) Cheques issued since the last meeting:

The following was noted:

Janet Mills Clerks wages (5 Months including Inland Revenue payment. £670.41

CDBF Newsletter £48.77

Janet Mills £12 for filing cabinet keys

c) Official Notice of Accounts

It was noted that the official notice had been posted to parish notice boards. The Clerk advised that the accounts were available between 9 May and 6 June should anyone wish to make an appointment to see them.

d) Audit Commission Financial Return

A second note of thanks was given to David Lomas, the internal auditor, who at short notice, had reviewed and approved the Clerks completed Financial Return. Cllr Ballard proposed and Cllr Philpot seconded a motion that the Financial Return

Chignal Parish Council continued

be approved by the Council. The motion was carried.

e) Precept Award

It was noted that the PC was to receive £4,500 precept for this year.

14.0 COMMUNITY GRANT BUDGET

The Clerk had circulated papers previously, outlining the current financial position. How much funding to set aside to provide community project funding was debated. Taking into consideration the fixed costs of the Council and other contingencies required Cllr Feltwell proposed and Cllr Nelson seconded a motion that £350 be set aside for a Community Grant Budget. The motion was carried.

15.0 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING

A request for grant funding had been received from Rev'd Rose Braisby Curate St Nicholas Church. The application outlined a proposed longer term project to install basic facilities (a disabled-access toilet and small servery) no costs attached and outlined two immediate projects as follows.

1. Tree felling in the Church yard £670.00
2. Grass cutting £250-300 per year.

The matter was discussed. Members were supportive towards the application and would be supportive of granting an award towards one off costs of projects to

preserve St Nicolas Church. The Clerk advised that not enough information had been provided that regrettably the PC had not a formal process at this time by which the application could be formally considered. It was agreed that for PC governance reasons a Grant Application form, setting out information requirements would be urgently drawn up. The applicant would be re-invited to apply as soon as the application form was available.

16.0 CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman gave a formal note of thanks to Mr. And Mrs Wilkins for presenting a copy of their recently published book entitled the History of the Chignals and Mashbury. The Chairman advised that the book which contained many interesting facts would be available to everyone at Coffee Mornings. Further copies of the book are to be printed and can be purchased: details to be published in the next edition of Chignal News. All profits to the Church Repair Fund.

17.0 LATE AND URGENT BUSINESS

There being no late and urgent business meeting closed at 9.30pm

18.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

July 14th 7.30pm in the Village Hall

From the County Council

Following a series of accidents, Essex County Council has made a plea to the Highways Agency and the Government for urgent measures on the A12. It recommends:

- 1) Chevron markings to assist drivers to maintain appropriate distance
- 2) A ban on Heavy Goods Vehicles overtaking between 6am and 8pm
- 3) The restoration of police patrols
- 4) Signage on both sides of the Witham Bypass saying 'Slow Down', 'Maintain Distance', 'Keep Alert'

Whilst road maintenance is a national problem the County Council has been successful in bidding for extra Government money of £4.4 million to mend potholes. The County Council has added £5.6 million to this which will help improve the conditions of the county's roads following the damage caused by the severe weather earlier this year. This means a total of £54 million will be spent on road maintenance this year. I should add that this will not fix the entire network of potholes across Essex but it will make a big difference. As an indication some of these additional funds are being allocated as follows:

- £3.5m on carriageway defects on main roads (Priority 1 and Priority 2)
- £3.0m on carriageway defects on rural local roads
- £4.5m on carriageway, footway, kerbing, drains defects on urban local roads
- £1.0m on white lining (to increase that budget to £1.7m)
- £1.0m on urban footways in the four main towns

I do hope that you will have already noticed an improvement in roads as a result of earlier scheduled works. Resurfacing of nearly two million square metres of roads across the County including Chelmsford began in

May and will last for around 17 weeks, subject to dry weather.

In Person Services

A review of the County Councils In Person Services to improve the way we deliver all our services has begun. These services include how we serve our residents face to face at County Council reception areas, register offices and our public libraries. We will begin to examine how the County Council can improve its service to all residents and develop a new way to deliver them. It is important to work with partners to progress our proposals and this will include communications and engagement with local communities, parish councils and community groups to look at new models and innovative ways to deliver our services so we can meet your expectations of what good customer service should be like now and in the future. Essex County Council has 100 service points together with those located at District, Borough, Town and Parish Councils. I should stress that at this stage no decisions have been taken on how our In Person services will be delivered in future.

If you have any problems concerning **County Council** matters please let me know on **01245 421524** or email cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk - John Aldridge CC

Dates for your Diary

Please check the Church Notice Board for any alterations.
Everyone 's welcome at all the services.

- Sunday 13 July** 11 a.m. *Morning Prayer & Baptism of Marissa Singizi*
- Sunday 27 July** 11 a.m. *Communion* (9.30 a.m. *Family Service, Ford End*)
- Wednesday 30 July** 9 a.m. *Morning Prayer*
- Sunday 10 Aug** 11 a.m. *Morning Prayer*
- Wednesday 13 Aug** 9 a.m. *Morning Prayer*
- Sunday 24 Aug** 11 a.m. *Communion* (9.30 a.m. *Family Service, Ford End*)
- Wednesday 10 Sept** 9 a.m. *Morning Prayer*
- Sunday 14 Sept** 11 a.m. *Morning Prayer*
- Sunday 28 Sept** 11 a.m. *Communion* (9.30 a.m. *Family Service, Ford End*)
- Sunday 5 October** *Harvest Festival (Time TBA)*

Contacts: Rev'd Caroline Brown 01245 364081 cjbrown42@hotmail.co.uk
Rev'd Rose Braisby 01245 361927 revrosebraisby@btinternet.com

Gardening Club Visit

Gardening club visit Wednesday 18th June to the Old Rectory Boreham a 2½-acre garden surrounding C15 house (not open). Ponds, stream, with bridges and primulas, small wild flower meadow and wood with interesting trees and shrubs, herbaceous borders with emphasis on complementary colours. Vegetable garden. In June see the tall bearded iris. Lovely views over Chelmer/Blackwater canal.



St. Nicholas' Church

We feared the worst on the Saturday – far too wet to for the churchyard clear-up, so however would we manage an outdoor service on the Sunday morning? But actually, it was a lovely day by 9.30. How many people would turn up? Not many, it seemed – but suddenly, the crowd appeared, and poured into the church – in boots and wellies, with children, a few dogs, a wonderful crowd of over 60 packing the pews and singing, before setting out to bless horses and fields and water and workers. Yes, Rogation was a grand occasion. While a team stayed in the church for their own service led by Sandra Sykes from the Leighs, the rest had a lovely saunter up to the reservoir and back through the horse paddocks, stopping to sing and pray and bless (and drink beer and water, eat bread and blow bubbles). We thanked God for fire and water and earth and air, asking blessings on all those who work with them and for the miracle of the harvest. Then it was back to the church for super cakes and refreshments (thank you, Chignals Ladies). It was a lovely morning with lots of singing and chat and laughter and good company. And cakes. What's not to like? Can hardly wait to celebrate Harvest – 5 October, make a date!

But we also have more sombre events to put in the diary; on 4 August everyone is invited to commemorate the start of World War I by "Lights Out", putting out all lights except one (perhaps a candle) between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. There will be a service at Great Waltham starting at 9.45 p.m., so do come along if you can. Check the church notice board for details. (Of course this doesn't replace the Remembrance Day Service at 10.55 a.m. on Sunday 9 November, when we shall remember all the fallen from The Chignals and Mashbury, in St Nicholas Church.)

With prayers and blessings Rose



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

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

Email: chignalswe@btinternet.com Web:www.essexinfo.net/thechignals

Articles to the editor by 31th July 2014 for next publication 31st August 2014