

No. 130

June 2008



## Village Fete



**Plant Stall**



**Anyone for a Cream Tea?**

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

# Chignal News

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### St Nicholas Services

July 13<sup>th</sup>  
July 20<sup>th</sup>  
July 27<sup>th</sup>

August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
August 10<sup>th</sup>  
August 17<sup>th</sup>  
August 24<sup>th</sup>  
August 31<sup>st</sup>

**All Services start at 11 am**

# Gardening Club

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About 20 members of the club plus one dog (Fergus) visited Wickham Place Farm on the evening of 21 May. The wisteria for which Wickham Place Farm is famous was in full glorious bloom. We were made very welcome and enjoyed our tea and cakes in the walled garden.

Members of the club manned the plant stall at the Village Fete, raising over £600!. Many thanks to Janet & Tony for providing so many of the plants which we sold and to all those members who turned up to help.



The June visit was to Hobban's Farm, which has many beautiful traditional roses. The roses were in full bloom for our visit and everyone enjoyed the evening.

The annual garden supper is going to be at Marks Hall Garden and Arboretum on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July meet at p.m. for a 6.30 p.m. start followed by supper at the Barn.

New members and guests are most welcome. Contact John Dennis 01245 440289 or

Richard Dinnen 01245 358360

# Bowls Club

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The yearly completions were finalised in April with Gordon Hillyear being the Men's Singles Winner, with Bill Knight as runner-up. The Ted Ball Cup for the winner of the Pair's Competition, was awarded to Geoff and Ann Coates.

The A.G.M. was held in April, the Committee was re-elected en-bloc with the Officers remaining the same as last year. Before the meeting took place; wine, cheese and biscuits were served, also the Club Photo was taken and

the match played for the Bill Hawkes Trophy. This was played between Gordon Hillyear and Ann Coated, with Ann being awarded the Trophy. The Club had a match away against Black Notley, a very nice evening with a successful outcome. The next match is at home against Ford End.

The Strawberry Supper was held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June in the Village Hall.

Contact:- Ann or Geoff Coates on 01245 441515

# Wine Discovery

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May saw the return of Chris Burford who treated us to wines of the 'Veneto' - Northern Italy on the far west side of Lake Garda. The temperate climate gives rise to an interesting variety of wines – traditionally drunk with food. In general the group found them to be quite light, fresh and young. We also enjoyed trying a traditional prosecco/peach juice mix, which whilst very tasty, the general consensus was that we preferred drinking the wine on its own. Many thanks to Chris for an enjoyable evening.

June saw the final evening in the UK for one of our members - Steve, who was flying out to a new life in New Zealand the next day. It was also his birthday so a doubly special evening. Dave started off the evening by presenting three varieties of Gewurztraminer wine – French, Chilean and Australian. Very different flavours from spicy nutmeg through to aromatic floral. All had the same grape variety, but the soil, climate and nurturing process produced some very

different wines indeed. Overall the French version seemed to win the vote of most of our members. John had chosen his wines by the occasions on which they had been drunk - two memorable events enjoyed with Steve and other members of the Wine Club – a white burgundy and a Rioja, reminding us all that good wine and great company always go well together. Steve then shared the last of his wine collection with us – an Australian Shiraz and a fine magnum of Rioja that went well with the cheese. We finished the evening with champagne, birthday cake much reminiscing. We all wish Steve and Caroline the very best for their future happiness. Next month we will be having our summer barbeque at Dave and Gills. There is no meeting in August but we start again in September. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Dave on 442474.



# Village Hall

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The committee have had a busy time over the past months. After the memorable Opening Day in April it was straight down to organising the Village Fete. The big worry on the day was the weather, but again we were lucky, whilst most of Essex had rain we remained dry. The usual display of various stalls and games, cars, tractors, engines plus Alpacas and rabbits, not forgetting the art and cream teas, brought the crowds in to make it another very successful day. Proceeds exceeded £2500. This is not achieved without a lot of hard work and a big thank you goes to the volunteers, the committee and especially to Beryl & Norman for the use of their garden.

In between the two big events we also ran a

Whist Drive with 36 participants. All these activities are helping us build up our funds, this apart from also trying to get more grants for improvements to the Hall. We still have to improve the car park to include disable parking, refurbish the kitchen and finish off landscaping the surrounding land.

We are still looking for new members to join the committee, if your interested then contact us.

For your Diary

**Barn Dance Supper 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall**

Gordon Hillyear, Chairman 01245 231406

## Women's Institute



In April Eve and Bob Matthews from Colchester told us about the history of the 'Aloe Vera' plant and how it has been used in medicine. They had brought a splendid display of Aloe Vera products and did rather well with their sale, giving us 10% of the takings. Some members have found the products beneficial and are ordering more. In May the National Resolutions were discussed concerning 1) the inappropriate imprisonment of the severely mentally ill, and 2) the ban on sea bottom trawling. Myra Wilkins was attending the National AGM in Liverpool as delegate for our W.I. and also Walthambury W.I. and the two W.I.s in Broomfield. Anita Howard was also going as a W.I. Observer. After the discussion Gordon Ingram from Writtle Heritage gave an interesting talk on the historical research being carried out in Writtle and the surrounding area. Dowsing is one of the search methods used, and we are going to Writtle to try this. In June Margaret Rogers from Much Hadham in Hertfordshire gave an excellent presentation on 'Japan - a World Apart'. The competition was for an item made in Japan and this brought in a large and varied selection of objects. The competitions are not just for fun; the

items are voted for with pennies and at the end of the year a substantial amount of money is sent to the Overseas W.I. to help poorer families. In July we are hoping for good weather as we are having our 'garden meeting' at St. James' Church. Myra and Anita had a very interesting time at Liverpool; as usual it was amazing to see 5,000 women gathered for the conference. Although most of the meeting dealt with business and resolutions, we had some interesting speakers, two of whom were scientists Professor Averil MacDonald and Baroness Susan Greenfield; the third was Sandi Toksvig who was quite hilarious. As well as the AGM we stayed in a very good hotel with 100 other Essex W.I. members, and were able to see quite a bit of Liverpool.

August 7th: Coins and Jewellery, Mr. Gordon Bailey

September 4th: 'This is where I was born', a members' meeting

October 2nd: History of Gardening, Mrs. Anne Newman

Please contact Myra Wilkins on 01245 440659, for more details on any W.I. events

## Art Club

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New members have been welcomed and many art works produced in a very happy atmosphere. The group meets every 4th Thursday from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the Village Hall

Tuition for beginners. £2 per meeting to cover the cost of the Hall.

Details Myra Wilkins 01245 440659



# County Council

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The Annual Meeting of the Essex County Council was held on 6<sup>th</sup> May during which the “Essex Works” agenda was endorsed. This set out a number of pledges for the coming year to improve the quality of life for all those living in Essex. These pledges incorporate schemes to reduce road congestion, increase the recycling of waste to over 40% in partnership with District and Parish Councils and plant an additional 250,000 trees to support the ecology of the County. Underlying these specific initiatives is the County’s overarching policy to promote Localism and Public Engagement. This policy is manifest in the successful Communities Initiatives Fund which has been a major benefit to many of the Parish Councils in the Broomfield & Writtle Division. See [www.communityinitiativesfund.co.uk](http://www.communityinitiativesfund.co.uk) . Under the fund there have been grants to **Highwood** Parish Council to assist the construction of a new village hall, and to **Chignal, Mashbury** and **Good Easter** for improvements to their village halls. In **Great Waltham** the Fund has assisted in the creation of a new playing field car park and **Pleshey** received funding for new play equipment. **Broomfield** obtained assistance towards a new CCTV system and in **Writtle** the new Scout HQ has been assisted to install a new heating system whilst the Parish Council was able to fence and secure its new playing field. In

**Roxwell** and **Little Waltham** the Memorial Halls were able to improve their facilities. These are just a few of the awards in the Broomfield & Writtle Division that total £165,000 over the last three years to empower local areas to improve their amenities.

As the County Member for the Broomfield & Writtle Division I believe that the eleven parish councils in the Division play a pivotal role in the relationship between the County and the Borough Council. It is also one of the best ways that, as the local Member, I can connect with people in places where they live and understand their aspirations for their community. I am enthusiastic about developing through partnership with parish councils improvements in community facilities and such partnership developments are already being actively pursued in Broomfield and Great Waltham. It is for local people to make their views known to their representatives and it is only with knowledge of these views that the local authorities can make changes that the people want and not, as has happened so often in the past, what the authorities think you should have.

If you have any problems about County Council matters please let me know on **01245 421524** or [cllr.john.aldridge@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.john.aldridge@essexcc.gov.uk)



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## Mashbury Parish Meeting

A good number of Mashbury residents attended the Parish Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 to hear the lively and informative presentation by Samir Pandya, Acting Area Manager, Essex County Council Highways. Samir answered all the questions raised by residents, giving helpful advice and information on a wide range of topics including the legal use of obstacles on verges to prevent traffic damage, the schemes used to prioritise road repairs and how funding is allocated, including use of “ring-fenced” government funding e.g. public transport improvement schemes. Samir noted the main concern regarding the stretch of Fox Road in the Bards Hall area and has undertaken to ensure it is built into a prioritising schedule. The meeting also received a report from the Neighbourhood Watch representatives and from the Village Hall Committee.

Use of local roads by heavy delivery lorries continues to cause concern as the route taken to reach their destination of a Plant Nursery frequently results in them getting into difficulties, with narrow stretches of road, with tight bends and with other traffic. It is understood that Chignal Parish Council received an undertaking from the Nursery owner to raise problems direct with individual drivers, but a response is still awaited about whether this offer also extends to Mashbury.

The meeting was also used to organise the Village Clean-up and our grateful thanks must go to all residents who volunteered to clear stretches of road, collecting rubbish from verges and ditches.

Moira Tarrant  
Chair, Mashbury Parish Meeting

# Chignal Parish Council

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## REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2008 IN THE VILLAGE HALL PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Delivery Lorries to Nursery – Problems were again reported with lorries delivering to the nursery particularly during unsocial hours, as early as 4 a.m. and as late as 10 p.m. on a very regular basis. The Clerk was requested to write to the Highways Department pointing out the problems. A planning application will be necessary because of proposed changes to the entrance to the nursery and the Parish Council will request the application be discussed at Full Committee rather than by Officers.

It was reported that a cycle race had taken place through the Parish recently and reservations were expressed on safety through the narrow roads. It was explained that it is not mandatory for a police presence at events of this kind.

Footpaths – it was reported that the footpaths had been examined and E.C.C. has agreed to provide extra signposts and arrange for work to be carried out to the bridges.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN – Chris Philpot and Martyn Towns were re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – The Chairman agreed to attend a police panel on 5<sup>th</sup> June and highlighted the fact that there has not been a police presence at a parish meeting for the last two meetings. A parishioner reported that there has been no monthly mobile visit in the Village Hall car park by the police for the last two months either.

SUB COMMITTEES – Councillors were re-elected en bloc to their respective sub-committees.

PLAYING FIELDS – two quotations have been received for cutting the grass at the Village Hall and it was agreed that the lower quote be accepted.

VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – it was reported that the Open Day following the refurbishment had been very successful with many parishioners attending. The Village Fete will be held at Woodhall Farm on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

NEWSLETTER incl. WEBSITE – a request was made by the editor for additional funding to include coloured items in the newsletter. Investigations will be made on the costs involved and a decision made when this information is available. It was also queried whether a cost could be charged for people outside the Parish wishing to advertise in the Newsletter.

GRAVEL LIAISON – at the latest site meeting with Lafarge and E.C.C. no problems were reported with

the shredder or the gas extraction system. Due to increased compaction, more waste will be deposited and this work will take longer than anticipated. An application for an extension of time from 2010 to 2011 will be submitted at the appropriate time. The proposed reservoir final draft will be submitted by the end of May with an assessment period of 16 weeks. A hearing of the application is expected late September/early October with 28 days allowed for public comment. A meeting has been arranged by Lafarge to combine an Open Day with information on the proposed reservoir for 6 p.m. on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. People wishing to attend should meet at the Village Hall where tractors and trailers will be available to transport parishioners to the site.

HIGHWAYS – the Highways Department has been advised in writing of the position of the largest potholes in the Parish but no action has been taken to date.

VDS – it was reported that the document is progressing well and a sample is to be sent to the Borough Council for guidance.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – C.Cllr John Aldridge explained that he is now responsible for the Scrutiny Group which includes the environment, waste, regeneration, the Olympics and highways with the first meeting of the Group being held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008. Funds are available for Parishes to carry out tree planting schemes and Councillor Aldridge encouraged Chignal to participate in the scheme.

## PLANNING

Chignal Hall Farm – change of use of redundant buildings – the Planning Officer will visit the site next week.

Broomwood Manor – extensions – approval has been given.

The Bungalow Chignal St. James – replacement – no decision has been made.

The Old Rectory – extensions – observations from the Parish Council have been forwarded to the Borough Council.

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2008/09 – Meeting were arranged in the Village Hall for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009, 7 p.m. Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009 followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8 p.m. and the Annual General Meeting at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

# St. Nicholas' Church

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Greetings to you all from the Church Warden and Congregation of St. Nicholas Church. We are very pleased to be able to report to you the good news that the Bishop of Chelmsford has extended our suspension period until 2013. The situation will then be reviewed, in the meantime; to quote our P.C.C. secretary Myra, "It is upwards and onwards". The Bishop is unable to provide us with a priest, but we will continue with the support of the retired clergy and lay readers; something we are getting very used to, and I am very grateful for their loyal and faithful support.

On a sadder note, we report to you that Alan and Joy Shipcott have both resigned. Many of you are probably aware that Alan was Church Warden for many years, along with Joy as secretary to the Parochial Church Council. We are very thankful to them both for their loyal and faithful service, may peace be with them as they adapt to the changing circumstances of their lives.

Tony Towns has offered to continue as Church warden, Myra Wilkins is our new Secretary, Greg Polack remains our Treasurer. We wish all three of them well as they take on their new responsibilities.

Our church continues to be frequently visited. It is a little oasis of peace within easy reach of large towns, providing a place of contemplation and quiet retreat for many as they travel through the journey of their lives. We are grateful to those of you who so willingly help us to maintain this beautiful place. We want to keep it to the very best standard we can. This takes time and a



lot of effort. To keep it to the standard, we believe it deserves, we do need more help cleaning, flower arranging and grass cutting. Our volunteers have diminished considerably due to fading health and people moving away. If you feel you are unable to offer help regularly, perhaps you would like to to celebrate the birthday or anniversary date of a loved one by arranging flowers, clean brass or maybe cut the grass! We do genuinely need your help. It is a very special building with a sacred garden. Please can you help us? No matter how small a job you can offer to do, it all helps. Contact Tony or Helen Towns on 440241 or Myra Wilkins on 440569. Likewise, if we can be of any assistance to you please feel free to phone. If we do not know the answer we may be able to find someone who can. May our little church; which is the parish church for the people of St. James, Mashbury and Smealey, long stand.

You are warmly welcome to join us in worship on a Sunday morning at 11 a.m., visit whenever you wish, the door remains unlocked, enjoy, and in so doing help us to preserve this sacred space. We trust you are well and wish those of you who have been unwell in recent weeks, a full recovery. May you all have a restful and refreshing break, whether taken in your garden or travelling further afield.

A note for your diary

Friend of Essex Churches Cycle Ride/Walk Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup> 2008. Hosts/hostess's required to man the church. Sponsor forms and more information available from Helen Towns, 440241

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## Editorial

Another bumper edition this time, which shows how active we are as a community, but leaves little room for my editorial! Please note the dates for the Barn Dance and Cycle Ride/Walk, I am sure these will be very well supported by villages. I love Barn Dances so hope to attend this event.

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS & MASHBURY**

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I really enjoyed the Village Fete, I think it epitomises the spirit of our villages, all generations enjoying the simple pleasures of life together. (More photos are on the website) The next edition of the Chignal News will be published in August so please get any articles to me by the end of July.

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