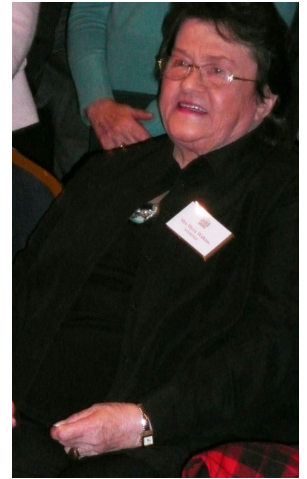




Mayor's Community Award



Myra Wilkins (bottom row, right, above) was awarded a Mayor's Community Awards 2009 at Waterfront Place recently. Myra was nominated for her award for *Voluntary Service by Adults*, by the parish council and was presented with a certificate by the Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Tom Willis, in recognition of her tireless work.

The Three Elms have also been busy raising funds from their weekly quizzes. They raised £2000 for Little Havens and presented a cheque to a representative from Little Havens in the pub (below).



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St Nicholas Services

March 15th
 Mothering Sunday
 March 22nd
 March 29th
 April 5th
 Easter Sunday
 April 12th
 Service of Holy Communion

All Services start at 11 am

Village Hall

Since the last report we have been very fortunate in receiving a £5000 Grant from the Essex County Council Initiatives Fund towards the cost of relaying the car park including disable parking bays. It now remains for us to raise the remainder for the work to be carried out. Again a big thank you to the Essex County Council who have supported us through all the developments at the Hall.

The Mince Pie & Coffee morning could have been better attended, but those who were there had an enjoyable morning and raised over £100 towards our funds.

Now with Christmas behind us we can get down to decorating work, both inside and out (weather permitting).

Gordon Hillyear 231406.

Women's Institute



The December meeting was a great success with poems, stories, jokes, carols and music performed by our own members, Anita Howard's rendering of 'Twas the night before Christmas' became quite hilarious as other members joined in. This was followed by a fantastic tea beautifully set out as a buffet. Helping the atmosphere were the Christmas decorations, many thanks to the Bowls Club for providing these each year.

Only a few members were unable to attend the first meeting of the WI and it was most pleasing to welcome four new members. After a short business meeting Mr. Stephen Collins and Mr. Mark Smith from the Chelmsford recycling department gave an excellent presentation explaining the uses of all material which is collected. Chelmsford really does see that all recycled items are put to good use, there is no stockpiling of paper etc as happens in some areas. It was very reassuring to know that Chelmsford is really recycling to the best advantage. We all thought 'well done Chelmsford' after this. The competition for 'an object made from something else' brought in a

good number of entries showing how versatile our members are! Members vote for their favourite item with pennies or small coins and at the end of the year all the money is sent to the overseas WI (ACWW) in poorer countries. So no waste there either!

Future Meetings:

April 2nd. Hearing loss and hearing aids. Mr. Mel Hastings

May 7th Resolutions and members' crafts
May 8th Chignal hosts the Tindal Spring Group Meeting at the Village Hall, over 60 visitors are expected from Broomfield, Great Baddow and Galleywood WIs. Mr. John Kay from Colchester will demonstrate watercolour painting.
Myra Wilkins 440659

The Art Group will continue to meet at the Village hall on the fourth Thursday of the month, 12 noon to 4 p.m. (start and finish when you like) Anyone can join, it's a very relaxed group with tuition for beginners. details 440659

Gardening Club

In January we had a very interesting and informative talk on the Secret lives of garden birds with Mike Logan Wood.

In February, the villages suffered some severe weather with heavy snow followed by flooding, then at short notice our speaker cancelled, which nearly resulted in the cancellation of our meeting. Luckily, the weather cleared up and Sheila Chapman stepped into the breach at very short

notice and gave a very knowledgeable talk on clematis.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 19th March at 7.30 p.m. when the ever popular Margaret Willis will be returning to talk on propagation.

We are planning trips to several gardens in the summer. New members are always welcome so please come along to the village hall for an enjoyable and informative evening.

Bowls Club

Our Christmas fish and chip supper was held on December 12th. We were also celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the formation of the Chignal and Mashbury Bowls Club, little realising at that time how successful it would be. We began the evening with the pair's competition for the shield. This was won by Roy and Pete, with runners up, Janet and Sandra. John arrived on time with the fish and chips which was followed by a variety of sweets made by the ladies. There followed the presentation of the shield with prizes for the winners and runners up.

We then had a magnificent raffle organised by Sheila and Yvonne with a splendid hamper organised by Kathleen as first prize which this year was won by Ann. After which our twentieth anniversary was cut with a photo taken to celebrate the event. The ladies were all given presents and the gentlemen presented with diaries. The evening concluded with carol singing.

On Tuesday the 13th January the Club held their annual Ladies versus Gentlemen evening. The theme for evening was London underground stations. As usual, members put a lot of thought into their outfits. Paddington (Bear) was a treat, we also had a Brent Goose (Brent Cross), a very splendid James Bond (Bond Street), a rather terrifying mask of George Bush (Shepherd's Bush), an appetising Baker Street, and also other imaginative costumes. Playing bowls in these outfits proved a slight problem, but it was all good fun, ended in a draw, and was followed by a buffet supper.

Amongst all this merriment we do actually play bowls. Our club competitions are proceeding well, Gordon played in the Essex Singles at Braintree, doing very well against a previous winner, Our next friendly match is against RHP in March.

Ann Coates



Shocking Events

Whilst enjoying our traditional family walk on Boxing Day towards Pengymill, we were concerned to see a group of men with guns standing beside the footpath shooting. To avoid them we kept to the bridleway, as we passed the lake we admired the wild fowl and a lone swan. The grandchildren were thrilled to watch the swan start its take off flight. Our grandson Alfie shouted "DON'T GO THAT WAY MATE YOU MIGHT GET SHOT", then BANG the lovely majestic swan fell from the sky onto the pit road. We were all shocked and very upset. Our daughter Joanna, ran to apprehend the shooters who had thrown the swan into the undergrowth where we recovered it from. Police responded quickly with three cars racing to the scene. The RSPCA took the dead bird away and will be

prosecuting the offending gun. His excuse was that he thought the bird was a goose and that the sun was shining in his eyes. He was told that he should identify his target before pulling the trigger, and you are not supposed to shoot geese either.

The group of approx. 8 shooters appeared to be an organized shoot and were properly attired and were of foreign decent.

The land owner and tenant have both said that no permission had been given for a shoot on Boxing Day.

So much for protecting the environment. Lead shot fell and splashed into the lake from their cartridges, footpaths were blocked. We wonder how many more protected birds have gone this way.

Spencer Bridge

Chignal Parish Council

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12th JANUARY 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

P.C. Alan Davey attended the meeting and reported that since October, there have been four road accidents, one road sign incident, two cases of criminal damage and one burglary in the Parish.

P.C. Davey was advised that there have been numerous incidents of beer cans being thrown from cars particularly between the pumping station and Mashbury and also in Chignal Smealey between Woodhall Farm and Greenfields.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

a) Concerns were raised about the condition of road surfaces to Pengymill Lane and it was explained that Lafarge has recently undertaken remedial works in the area.

b) It was explained that the Highways Department has agreed that there are problems with road edges and potholes throughout the Parish and remedial work will be carried out shortly.

A site visit is to be carried out on 13th January by a representative of the Highways Department to examine the damage to the drain and surrounding areas at the entrance to the Green.

c) A statement was read out by the owner of the nursery clarifying issues reported at the last meeting.

d) A parishioner reported that the fence/barrier to the bridleway to Pengymill has disappeared and it was agreed that relevant action be taken for the fence to be replaced.

e) It was reported that the raising of the height of the current contours by Lafarge behind St. James' Church will need a full planning application.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

GRAVEL LIAISON – the next liaison meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on 27th January 2009 and problems reported by parishioners will be discussed at the meeting.

FOOTPATHS – a complaint has been received that the top bar of the stile near the Orangery is too high and a request was made for it to be removed.

It was reported that some of the brown signs erected in the Parish are incorrect and clarification is needed to explain the differences between bridleways and footpaths.

VDS – Another draft was submitted to the Borough Council before Christmas and it is expected that the next draft will be available for public consultation.

COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

It was explained that the Planning Committee will, from April, be held during the day rather than in the evenings as at present.

The mobile information van will no longer be visiting Chignal but it was suggested that a presence at the Village Fete in June might be an appropriate time for a visit.

PLANNING

Gravel extraction and formation of a reservoir opposite the Village Hall – the Planning Officer has visited the site recently and is waiting for the Agricultural Report but it is hoped that the application will be submitted to the February Committee.

Blue House Cottage – extensions – a new application is to be submitted.

The Old Rectory – extensions – a decision is awaited from the Borough Council

Hillside Cottage – dormer window – the application has been approved.

Brittons Hall Farm Buildings – raising of barn roof – a decision is awaited.

HORSE/DEER SIGNS

A list of possible sitings for new horse and deer signs in the Parish will be forwarded to the Highways Department for appropriate action.

VILLAGE CLEAN-UP DAY

It was agreed that the Clean-Up Day be held on Saturday 21st, March 2009 commencing at 9 a.m. with starting points at the Village Hall and Woodhall Farm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 9th March 2009 followed by the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 8.00 p.m.

North Melbourne Library

We had such a busy year in 2008 and are looking forward to more exciting events in 2009!. If you have never visited North Melbourne Library come and have a chat with our friendly staff. We have so much on offer for all tastes and needs. Our services are free for you to use and enjoy!

As well as books we have DVD's to hire, stories to listen to, Newspapers/Magazines and free Internet Access as well as a whole host of other online services.

Spring is in the air! Anyone planning to work in their garden over the next few months may want to look at our large selection of gardening books for ideas and suggestions.

We now have a daytime book club meeting in the Library one a month on a Friday lunchtime. If you would be interested in joining the group to get more out of your reading experiences then come in and let us know.

Do you have trouble visiting the Library? We have volunteers who are happy to call at pre-arranged times with a selection of books, talking books or DVDs for you to read and listen to. If this is a service that would benefit you or someone you know then please contact North Melbourne Library.

We are having a **Family Fun Football Day** on **Saturday 28th March** 10 a.m. -1 p.m. come along and meet some of our local **Chelsea Coaches** who will be here showing you some

football skills! And join in a selection of stories, quizzes and puzzles.

Our Baby and Toddler sessions will now be held twice a week: Tuesday 2.30-3.00 and Friday 11.00-11.30 come and join us for half an hour of stories and rhymes.

We are also starting our 'Daddy Cool' sessions on the first Saturday of the month 11.00-11.30 so dads why not come along and make some noise with your baby or toddler!.

During the Easter Holiday we will be having a 'Bedtime Stories' session on Tuesday 7th April 6.00-6.30 - bring your pillow and a soft toy and listen to bedtime stories! For 7 year olds and under, accompanied by a parent/guardian. And on Friday 17th April – A "Horrible" Day at the Library 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. drop in for fun-filled activities based around Horrible History, Horrible Science and Horrible Geography books. Take part in our Horrible Hunt around the Library.

Would you like to meet one of your favourite authors? We are celebrating 10 years of our Essex Book Festival this year.

For more information or a copy of the up-coming events please call into the Library.

Mandy Simioni – Library Supervisor
North Melbourne Library
(Attached to Newland Spring School)
Dickens Place
Cooperfield Road
Chelmsford
Tel: 01245 442292

Dates for your Diary

Village Clean-up

9 a.m. 21st March 2009

Meet at the Village Hall
or
Woodhall House



Ward Surgery

April 4th 2009 11.00 am - 12.00 noon

Chignal Village Hall

Nicolette Chambers, member for Chelmsford Rural West will be available to discuss matters relating to Chignal villages and Chelmsford Borough Council, everyone is welcome.

Telephone 01245 456719

St. Nicholas' Church

Greetings from the Church Warden and congregation of St. Nicholas Church. A very big thank you, to all who contributed towards our celebration of Christmas. All of our services were very well attended. As is tradition, the collection at our United Carol Service was given to children's charities; namely Little Havens Essex and the St. Lawrence Romania Hospice, a charity first supported in the Chignals under the guidance of Rev. Walter Mills.

A good number of children enjoyed the crib service, it was encouraging to see their parents and grandparents and likewise the Christmas morning service was well attended.

After a long hard winter, Spring hopefully is on her way. The first reported sighting of a wild primrose in the Chignals was 13th January. Spring is the time when we celebrate new life, bulbs bursting from the ground, song birds and lambs, but more importantly the resurrection of our Lord, the son of God, the creator of the universe. It brings us new opportunities, longer days enabling us to enjoy more

time outdoors, maybe in our gardens or walking the many footpaths and bridleways. A time to admire our creator's handiwork. Let us try to respect our planet, remembering we are guardians of our land and homes. You are all warmly invited to join us at our Sunday morning worship.

A special invitation to families to our Mothering Sunday Service March 22nd at 11 a.m. This will be in the form of a short family service and will be followed by coffee and fruit juice.

We trust that you are all keeping well and look forward to seeing you in and around the parish. We are short of cleaners and flower arrangers and would appreciate any others of help.

Dates for you Diaries:

March 22nd – Mothering Sunday 11am Family Service

Saturday April 11th 10 a.m. Decorating the Church for Easter – everyone welcome

April 12th 11 a.m. Easter Day Holy Communion



Tuition in Music

Jane Mitchell, a qualified Royal Academy teacher and organist at St. Nicholas Church is available to teach oboe and piano. Lessons are £8.00 per ½ hour session.

Contact Jane Mitchell
on 01245 443675 or e-mail
jane_mitchell@blueyonder.com



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS & MASHBURY

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Items for next Newsletter to editor by 1st April 2009