



Three Elms Presentation



Mark and Tina of the Three Elms can be seen above presenting the latest donation to Dave Bishop, on behalf of Little Havens Hospice. The Three Elms quizzers raised £1807.04, which will be put to good use by the Hospice.

The Quiz teams have nominated local girl Cassie, as the next recipient of the money from the weekly Charity round and raffle. Cassie is taken by her parents; Matt and Michelle, for costly treatment in Slovakia. Cassie has made very good progress, every donation is really appreciated, as this will help her to carry on with her treatments.

Mark and Tina have kindly agreed to open the Three Elms up early on the 20th March to provide refreshments to those who have participated in the annual Village Clean-up.

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Diary Dates

ST GEORGE'S DAY WHIST DRIVE

FRIDAY 23rd APRIL
7.30 at the VILLAGE HALL
£2.50 entry includes
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

Village Clean-up

9 a.m. 20th March 2010
Meet at the Village Hall or
Woodhall House
Tea & Coffee from 11 a.m.
at the Three Elms
after the Clean-up



Bowl's Club

The Club's Christmas Fish and Chip Supper was held in December. The evening began with the Bowls Knock-out competition for the Shield. This was won by Kathleen and Yvonne. The Fish and Chip meal was followed by a great selection of sweets provided by the ladies. The magnificent raffle followed, organised by Sheila and Yvonne, with the first prize being the beautiful hamper including items provided by members and packed and decorated by Kathleen. This was won by Bill. Everyone was in good voice for the singing of carols to round the evening off.

Our annual very light hearted Ladies v. Gents Evening took place on January 3rd. The theme this year was Musicals. We had a Pirate from Penzance, a Wicked Witch, someone from HMS Pineafore, and lots of Singing in the Rain! I am not sure who won, but I believe it was enjoyed by all.

We have several matches planned for this year, the first of which is in early February against Barnston, who we have not played against for some while.

All the members of the Bowls Club would like to express their sympathy to Janet Campen on the death of Tony. Janet is an active member of the Club, and Tony was a very welcome guest on many occasions.

Ann Coates.



Village Hall

The Christmas Coffee and Mince pies morning that was held at the village hall at the beginning of December was an enjoyable affair. There's always a really festive flavour at this event with Christmas carols playing in the background and the hall decorated courtesy of the Bowls Club. Together with the raffle and bring and buy nearly £182 was raised for the hall funds.

The November whist drive was very well attended and successful, raising over £100.

The New Year got off to a good start at the village hall with the introduction of yoga classes run by qualified Hatha teacher, Sara McKeon. This means that we are on target with our Big Lottery Fund award requirement for the number of new groups expected to start at the hall. (For those of you who are new to the villages, or who may not be aware of the situation, the hall is completely self supporting, is managed by a committee of volunteers and is entirely dependent upon fund raising for its survival).

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Mr Tony Campen recently. Although it is his wife, Janet, who has been a village hall management committee member for many years, Tony was never very far away, helping in any way he could, and the committee would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work he did for the village hall. He always made himself available, giving his skills and his time. Tony was highly regarded in the community and will be greatly missed. We extend our condolences to Janet, Carol, Michael and Andrew.

Women's Institute

The January meeting had to be postponed because of snow but fortunately we were able to meet one week later. It was still rather bleak but Cherry made sure we had enough heating and only a few people were unable to attend. Our speaker was Mr. Colin Beeton from Chignal Smealey who told us about his book 'Mr. Beeton's book of household MISmanagement' an amusing twist on the original book title by Victorian authoress Mrs. Isabella Beeton. Colin had made an analysis of the cunning ways in which supermarkets promote their wares using psychology to tempt the customers. He also analysed the ingredients of everyday items such as bread. A most interesting presentation. Colin had looked up details of the National Federation of Women's Institutes and seemed pleasantly surprised at all the work and involvements that the WI is committed to. It was disappointing not to see any new faces in January but perhaps we will attract new members later. Our members come from a wide area around Chelmsford but we always hope more local ladies will join us. In February we are looking forward to a talk about 'Ladies in Country Music' given by Dr. John Knight of Colchester.

We were all very sad to hear of the death of Janet's husband Tony and send our deepest sympathy. In the summer of 2009 we had a wonderful meeting in their beautiful garden. Janet is a very valued member of our group.

March 4th

April 1st

May 6th

Beatrix Potter

Homeopathy

History of fingerprints

Mr. Dudley Chignall

Mrs. Moira O'Conner

Mr. Terry Rockall



Keep a look out for two WI events, a 'Nearly new and Bric-a-brac Sale' in early summer and our annual quiz at the end of September. Myra Wilkins 440 659

Gardening Club

Are you someone who would love to grow your own vegetables but who doesn't have the land?
Or are you someone that has garden or land that you would love to see cultivated?

The Landshare Scheme could be the answer. This idea, originally thought up by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall of River Cottage fame, is growing fast nationally. Would-be growers and people with spare land can link up through registering on the Landshare website www.landshare.net.

And if you are new to growing vegetables or need some friendly help and ideas, come along to the Chignal Garden Club. There you can meet and exchange tips with fellow gardeners from the Chignals and Mashbury who will be only too willing to share their experience and knowledge.

Since the last edition, we have had two talks. Lin Blunt gave the January talk. Lyn stepped in at very short notice and gave a very informative talk about her travels in Tibet and China. The monies raised from the plant sale and Lin's fee were used to sponsor three Nepalese children's schooling for a year. On Wednesday 17th February, Mick Lavelle gave a very interesting talk on Wildlife Gardening. The talk was entertaining, but also emphasised that a wildlife garden needed to be maintained and we need to accept that to have predators you need prey, so if you use pesticides, the predators are often affected more than the prey so you end up creating prey paradise, but if you don't use pesticides and let nature create the balance you will reduce the prey that cause problems with your plants and vegetables.

Our next talk is "Trees in your Garden" by Darren Blunt on Wednesday 17th March at 7.30 p.m.

New members are always welcome to our talks just come along or contact John Denniss on 01245 440289 if you want any information about the club.



In Memory of Anthony Brian Campen 1937- 2010

After a short illness very bravely borne Tony died on the 16th January.

A Thanksgiving Service for his life was held on the 29th January at Broomfield Church and it was attended by a great many of his friends and family. Tony had lived in Broomfield for 36 years, moving to Chignal St. James when the children were 15, 13 and 9, spending the next 36 years enjoying the country life, and making St. Marys Cottage a lovely house and home for his family.

Visitors to St. Marys were always warmly welcomed for a walk around the garden which Tony loved so much.

Janet and family would like to thank neighbours and friends who have given their help and support at this sad time. Tony will be very sadly missed.

Editorial by Linda Nelson

I do not know about the rest of you think, but this winter seems to be throwing all sorts of weather at us, everywhere is so muddy, I despair at the state of my car which is equally covered in mud! The snow was very enjoyable for a while, but it did make getting about very difficult especially when this was necessary to look after horses. I have to say, I thought the council did a good job in keeping the Chignal Smealey, St James loop open with regular gritting, but it was very hairy going towards Mashbury, which was not gritted. I am glad I work from home as I was not required to do daily battle with the conditions, although I did nearly get stuck in Milton Keynes by a big fall of snow overnight, meeting cancelled, I actually made it back in record time, as both the M1 and M25 were clear, there is always a silver lining if you look for it! Everywhere I drive the roads are full of potholes and many of the local ones are hidden by the puddles or should I say mini lakes, caused by the amount of rain we have been having, so we do need to follow the advice given in John Aldridge's report and inform the council where the potholes are.

I hope as many of you as possible will join in the Village Clean-up, it is good fun and necessary. There is a lot of rubbish in the verges and someone seems to be discarding clothes around the roads, which has lead to some amusing speculation as to why this should be! If anyone knows the real reason or has a funny explanation, I am happy to publish it.

Finally, I would like to express my sadness of the sudden death of Tony Campen. Tony always struck me as one of life's true gentlemen. I attended his memorial service, which was a great tribute to Tony, with so many people attending. I was especially moved by the poignant poem two of his grandchildren very bravely read out. My condolences to Janet and her family.

With this winter's unprecedented cold snap sending heating bills soaring, **Essex County Council** is offering a new service to vulnerable people to help them make their homes more energy efficient. When making home visits to vulnerable clients, **Home Improvement Agencies** across the county are additionally able to offer energy efficiency advice which is adapted to suit the householder's personal needs and circumstances.

Twenty staff, including case workers and handy person staff, are now **City and Guilds** trained and it is estimated that over 500 home visits are made by these teams each month. Staff can advise on energy saving initiatives such as:- home energy efficiency, heating controls and fuel sources, paying fuel bills/ fuel debt, condensation, damp and mould, energy efficiency grants. The service also enables teams to make referrals for grant money to organisations such as "**Warmfront**". **0800 316 2805** or <http://www.warmfront.co.uk/>

It is my hope that this new service will enable the **County Council** to give energy saving advice to people who really need it but might not otherwise be aware of it.

Notwithstanding the recent bad weather; **Essex County Council** upgraded eighty four roads, pavements or footpaths across the county in the last weeks of December; meaning that more than a thousand road improvement schemes were completed in 2009. Many of the schemes were initiated at the request of local communities, parish councils or as a result of regular inspections of the road network.

Currently **Highways** teams are assessing the damage caused to the roads as a result of the bad weather; with a view to making urgent repairs to restore the network. But after snow and ice comes the inevitable pot holes. If you know of one that needs repair please report it on **0845 603 7631** or use the fault reporting on line <http://www.essex.gov.uk/> and click "Report a Highway Fault". Please don't leave it to others.

The **County Council** has also announced it will be hosting a major national conference to look at issues arising from the effects of the bad weather and understand lessons for the future. The **Snow Summit**, which takes place in **Essex** at the start of March, will provide a forum for discussion and debate about this year's harsh winter, the impact on our transport network and our ability to deal with similar conditions in future years. Representatives from Scandinavian countries, who deal with harsh conditions year on year, will be invited to share their experience and expertise. Personally, I would like to see greater involvement by the public in snow and ice clearing to make the streets safer especially for the very young and the elderly or infirm. This means better access to salt/grit in priority areas such as near schools and sheltered accommodation, together with a clarification of the law which should protect volunteers from legal action in the event of accidents arising from those who are seeking only, with best endeavour, to help others in their community.

If you have any problems about **County Council** matters please let me know on 01245 421524 or Cllr.John.Aldridge@essexcc.gov.uk

Volunteering in an Emergency

It has been a few months since we saw the pictures of the devastation caused by the flooding in the Lake District, we may have wondered what would happen if that had occurred here and where would we go for shelter? Well you will be pleased to know that there is an Emergency Planning Centre in Chelmsford on call 24/7 ready to respond to any emergency should the need arise.

You may think that the chances of any emergency happening in our area are very unlikely and hopefully you will be right, but incidents have occurred locally. It has not been that long ago that WW2 incendiaries used by the Home Guard were discovered during excavation works at Great Leighs this resulted in some people being advised to leave their homes while the weapons were removed. This is where we are asking for volunteers, no, not to remove bombs but to help out at the Rest Centres that would be opened up to take in the people evacuated from their homes.

We have two designated rest centres - The Village Hall and the Chignal Chapel. The volunteers would be required to be at the centre ready to receive the evacuees when they arrive and then to assist the Team sent by the Emergency Planning Centre when they take control.

If you would like to be a volunteer please contact the Parish Council Clerk – Mrs Patricia McDonald on 440498 or me on 440189 Martyn Towns



Community News

New Arrivals

A warm welcome to our Community is extended to Valerie and Barry Milfore who have recently moved into Chignal St James.

Sponsor Wanted

If anyone is interested in sponsoring this newsletter please contact Tony Mawer on 01245 440432

Telephone Box at Chignal St James

The Parish Council (PC) has agreed to buy the red phone box at Chignal St James. It will be kept in place but the phone will be removed. The PC need ideas from the Villagers, as to what to use it for. If you have any ideas please contact Geoff Coates on 01245 441515

Missing Dog

For those of you who have seen the posters around the villages about Bramble being missing, she has been found and is now back at home.

Police Community Support Officer

We have an new PCSO - Gina Bennett. Gina can be contacted as follows: mobile – 07817 454884, direct line 01245 212566, normal number 0300 333 4444.



Chignal Parish Council

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11th JANUARY 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Jo Metson the new Village Agent introduced herself and explained that she is part of an 18 month funded pilot scheme which has been set up to work with the Community to help and advise on matters of concern. Jo can be contacted on 0800 9775858 or by e-mail on

www.villageagentsessex.org.uk

Gina Bennett the new PCSO introduced herself and reported on various incidents in the Parish since the last meeting. BT cabling has been stolen near Maple View and a digger stolen from Brick Barns. Other incidents include the theft of a chocolate labrador and the abandoning of a burnt out vehicle. Gina agreed to arrange for another speed check in Chignal Smealey.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A parishioner enquired when the next Clean-Up Day will take place and it was agreed that it be arranged for Saturday 20th March with arrangements as in previous years.

Arrangements will be made for volunteers to meet afterwards for coffee in the Three Elms.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Telephone Box – no progress has been made on purchasing the box but investigations will be made on who to contact regarding the purchase.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLAYING FIELDS - the hedge will be cut before the next meeting.

NEWSLETTER INCL. WEBSITE – thanks were expressed to Linda Nelson and the distributors for the latest edition of the Newsletter.

GRAVEL LIAISON – the date and time of the next liaison meeting is to be confirmed. The condition of Pengymill Lane and the culvert have not improved and the Clerk will contact Lafarge to suggest a meeting with local residents to discuss the problems.

FOOTPATHS /BRIDLEWAYS – PP3 have visited the Parish recently and some changes to the footpaths have been agreed. The third walk by Councillors of the remaining footpaths will take place at 10 a.m. on Friday 22nd January, meeting at the Tudors.

HIGHWAYS – A pothole survey has been carried out by Councillors and has been passed to the appropriate Department but it is unlikely that any work will be implemented in the near future.

VDS – it was confirmed that all design work has been completed and other work is ongoing.

COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

C. Cllr. Aldridge explained the current situation regarding the amount of salt and grit available following the recent cold spell and reported that the situation will be reviewed shortly at a public consultation meeting in Brentwood.

Councillor Chambers reported that the owner of the Nursery has not complied with the request to submit a planning application and has therefore been issued with an enforcement order.

PLANNING

Westleas Chignal St. James – extensions – the appeal was refused

The Old Rectory – double garage – the application was approved.

The Old Rectory – entrance gates and railings – pending a decision from the Borough Council
Land between Marshalls and 4 Ash Rise – outline application for three bed house – refused
Howletts – creation of two storey dwelling etc. – application refused

Maple View – detached garage and rear conservatory – pending

Chignal Hall – single storey side extension – pending

LATE URGENT BUSINESS

A Councillor reported that he had recently attended an Emergency Planning meeting at the Borough Council Offices and explained that in the event of an emergency, the two rest centres designated in the Parish will be the Village Hall and the Chapel. Volunteers to help in the event of an emergency evacuation were requested. It was confirmed that the Village Fete will be held on 5th June 2010.

A request was made that parishioners needing additional plastic sacks, which are stored in the Village Hall, contact the caretaker to arrange a convenient time for collection.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall on Monday 8th March 2010 followed by the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 8.00 p.m.

St. Nicholas' Church

Greetings to you all from St. Nicholas Church. Hopefully, the long cold winter will soon come to an end, but despite the freezing temperatures, the snowdrops in the church yard are in bloom and the green tips of bulbs are to be seen poking through the hard ground, a sure sign of Spring, the hope of things to come, the time when Easter is celebrated. Many people think of Easter as a holiday, if that is you enjoy your break, but for others it is a Christian festival celebrating our Lord's Resurrection, through which we receive the promise of eternal life. We have a lot to be thankful for and we would like to give a special thank you to all of you who have contributed to the upkeep of the churchyard during 2009. The polishing morning was well supported and the flowers for Christmas; despite the difficulty of getting everybody together due to the snow, looked delightful, your help is much appreciated. Our Christmas services were well supported, thank you for coming, and thanks to others who were unable to come but financially supported us.



We are planning a concert to be held in St. Nicholas Church on July 4th. Julia and Steve Smart are compiling an exciting program of easy listening music. More details will be in the next edition of the village news. We hope many of you will be able to support this event.



We look forward to seeing many of you in and around the parish during 2010.

Tony Towns Church Warden (Tel 440241)

Dates for your Diary

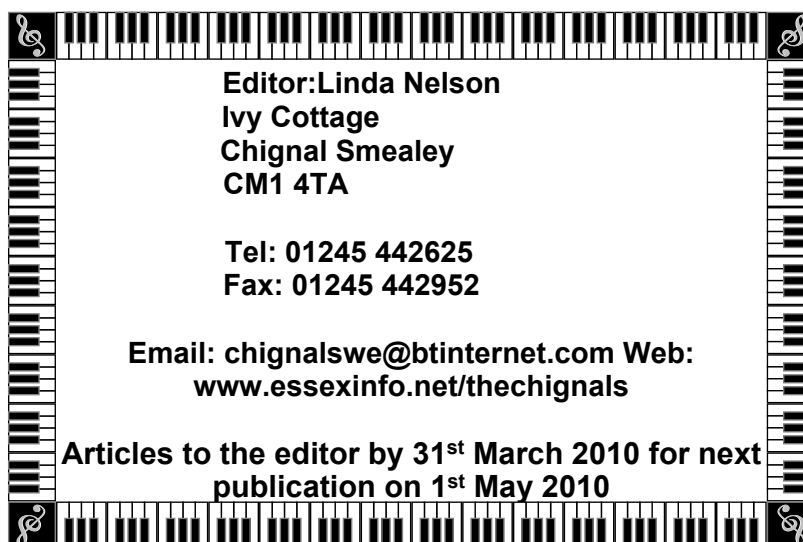
Sunday March 14th 11 a.m.

Mothering Service especially for families

Sunday April 4th 11 a.m. Easter Day

Sunday July 4th (Evening Time to be arranged) Concert in St. Nicholas Church

A service every Sunday at 11 a.m.



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