



The Pig & Whistle



Mark and Tina have reached the grand total of £20,000 collected by the quiz teams and customers over the last 4 years.

The latest donation of £2,000 was presented to Danielle Kiss representing Little Havens Children's Hospice.

The money will help fund
Respite care
Hospice at home
End of life care
Support for the extended family.

Farleigh Hospice is our next chosen charity to receive the donations from our charity quiz round

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Village Clean-up

9 a.m.
26th March 2011
Meet at the
Village Hall or
Woodhall House



Wine Club

In January, Charles Hardcastle of Joseph Barnes Wines, an independent wine merchant from Saffron Walden, gave a presentation of wines from Languedoc-Roussillon a region in Southern France. Charles' presentation was excellent and he is enthusiastic and passionate about the wines in which he deals. The first wine was a sparkling Rose from Mas de Daumas Gassac and this was followed by two whites one from small producer in Picpoul de Pinet and one from Domaine de l'Hortus. The whites in particular were very well received. We then tasted two reds. The first from Domaine du Meteore was unusual and had a mixed reception whilst the second from Chateau Ollieux Romanis made from the relatively rare Alicante Bouschet grape was considered excellent by all those present. We finished a most enjoyable evening with a lovely red dessert wine from Chateau de Jau.



Bowl's Club

The Club held it's Christmas Fish and Chip Supper in December. The evening began with the competition for the Xmas Shield. This was won by Geoff and Sheila . The Fish and Chip Supper was followed by a selection of sweets provided by the ladies, and the presentation of the Shield. We then had a superb raffle organised by Sheila and Yvonne the first prize being a splendid Hamper arranged by Kathleen and won this year by Martyn. The Ladies were all presented with a Christmas gift, and the very pleasant evening finished with Carol Singing.

In the New Year we held a Ladies and Gents Evening, with a difference. Geoff and Gordon had arranged a series of obstacles and balloons on the mats to make things more difficult, resulting in much hilarity.

In the coming year we have arranged a full programme of Friendly Matches, Outside Competitions and a range of Social Activities. If you feel like joining us, please look in on one of our club nights either Tuesday or Thursday at 7.30 - Ann Coates

Gardening Club

Our first talk of the New Year, was given by Alex Bass on the "Wildlife of Bocking". Alex is a passionate and knowledgeable speaker so the evening sped by. I think we may have a number of secret "twitchers" amongst our members, as there always seemed to be somebody in the audience who could answer the interactive questions Alex asked during the talk. Alex also organises local birding tours. Details can be found on his website: www.localbirdingtours.co.uk

Our last talk was by Darren Blunt on Arboriculture (Tree Care) on Wednesday 16th February. It was a very interesting talk which concentrated on the amenity aspect of trees and how they enhance the landscape and provide habitats for wildlife. Darren also covered how to keep trees healthy and some of the legislation around when it is necessary or permissible to cut trees down and some of the liabilities involved in owning and caring for trees.

Spring Programme:

Wednesday 16th March at the Village Hall - Herbs and Healing Plants by Nik Mennie
Wednesday 19th April at the Village Hall - Annual General Meeting

The evenings are very sociable and we always welcome any newcomers, so please come along. If you want more information please contact John Denniss on 01245 440289 or Graham Andrews on 01245 442625.

Women's Institute

It was a shame we had to miss our WI Christmas party in December because of the heavy fall of snow. At the January meeting the wonderful Christmas decorations were still up as it was Epiphany that day. Thank you Bowls Club. Mrs. Sheila Mullaly gave a most interesting talk on her visit to Iceland. With the aid of photographs and a large map she took us on a most interesting journey and because of her clear descriptions we were with her every step of the way. Sheila is a member of Newland Spring WI. Some members have been visiting other WIs for various reasons but have said that our WI is the most friendly and well organised, that's always good to know. In February we are looking forward to hearing about the interesting mission of the Street Pastors

March 3rd

Help with Hearing Essex Social Services

April 7th

A journey into print. Mr. Patrick Forsyth

May 12th(one week later)

Resolutions

Visitors always welcome Details Myra Wilkins 01245 440 659



Art Group

The art group met on the 4th Thursday of January. The Village Hall soon warmed up and it was a very happy productive afternoon. We looked at the work of Morandi but decided we didn't like his style of 'still life' but preferred Cézanne. Some then had a go at the still life objects provided, while others looked at Spring flowers and attempted them. As usual a lot of chat and new ideas learnt. The next meeting will be on February 24th, come and go any time between 12noon and 4pm. Experienced artists and absolute beginners welcome.

Details Myra Wilkins 01245 440 659

Mashbury Parish Update

Salt gritting of Smallshoes Hill: none of the roads within Mashbury are on the Essex Highways gritting schedule. However, as Smallshoes Hill is a significant hazard in ice and snow it was hoped that a local solution could be found in time for this winter. Regrettably this has not been possible as partnership with a neighbouring parish within the Salt Bag Scheme could not be arranged.

Looking ahead to next winter, we are dependent on whether Essex Highways can continue to make the Salt Bag Scheme and/or the Salt Bin Scheme available. A salt bin on the hill would be the best option for us, but would depend on the parish finding the £350 payment required for entry into the scheme and either option would require local volunteers who are willing to spread grit in bad weather. A decision about what will be available is expected in early summer.

Neighbourhood Watch:

We are now receiving outline information on recent crime in the area so that we can keep Mashbury residents alert to possible risks. To date, crimes notified have been theft of equipment left unattended. Please remember that Neighbourhood Watch does work - if you are suspicious of callers at your own or neighbours property, let the Police know.

Gina Bennett, Police Community Support Officer for this area, always welcomes information - 01245 485901 - which is Moulsham Lodge Police Station.

Moira Tarrant
Chair, Mashbury Parish Meeting

In Memory of Janet Doris Clarke (nee Pannell)

23.2.35 – 9.1.2011



Janet Clarke was born in 1935 in Swiss Avenue Chelmsford to Elsie and Geoffrey Panel. She lived there until she was 4 years old at which point she moved to 2 Council Houses Chignal Smealey (now Ash Rise) where she lived with her Nan and Gramp until she married in 1954.

Raised by her grandparents she attended Chignal School and fast became friends with Eve Pitts (Nee Hawkes), a strong friendship which lasted the years. As the years went by, they attended Keep Fit together, and spent many memorable times with one another, having children at similar times.

Janet's first job was working as a Clerk for Brown Brothers, based in Chelmsford. She rode her bike daily into town from Chignal.

In 1954 she married Eric at St Nicholas Church and moved into the Nissan Hut at Beadles Hall. They remained there until late 1957 when they moved to Grays Lodge. They became proud parents in 1955 when Jacqueline was born. In 1957 they became parents for a second time with the birth of Philip.

Whilst working as a full time mother, she also worked potato picking for Tony Towns. As the children grew older, they would accompany her in the pram and would even help her, when they were old enough to.

She also worked at the village shop and delivered groceries to all in the Chignals, Mashbury and the Easters in her Ford Anglia.

In 1960 Stephen was born. Sadly when Jackie was 11/12 years old she became ill and in 1971 when she was 15 she passed away. The family pulled together to get through the difficult time.

In 1964 Eric and Janet had their fourth child Gary and in 1972 Janet and Eric became parents again when Carralyn was born. Finally in 1975 James was born.

Janet lived in Chignal Smealey all her life and raised her family there. Many grandchildren followed, totalling 10 and thereafter, 6 great grandchildren were born.

Eric sadly passed away in 2002 and although difficult for Janet, she fought on with the strength that we all came to know and love.

Janet suffered with illness for many years and her health deteriorated on Christmas Eve 2010. She was cared for by the Staff at Broomfield Hospital for two weeks, with her large family continually by her side. She passed away peacefully on the 9th January 2011.

Until her passing she was the oldest surviving resident of Chignal Smealey.

Janet's funeral took place on the 7th February 2011 at the Church where she married and an event which was attended by a vast number of people.

The Family would like to thank all who attended and provided their support and special thanks go to Tony and Myra for the Church flowers.

Janet was a fantastic and inspirational woman who will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

DIGITAL TV SWITCHOVER IS COMING AND HELP IS AT HAND

For older and disabled viewers who may find making the switch difficult, the Switchover Help Scheme is at hand to provide practical help and assistance to turn one TV set to digital.

The Switchover Help Scheme can help you convert your TV to digital if you:

- Are aged 75 or over, or
- Have lived in a care home for six months or more, or
- Get (or could get)
 - o Disability Living Allowance (DLA), or
 - o Attendance or Constant Attendance Allowance, or
 - o Mobility Supplement, or
- Are registered blind or partially sighted

Most people will be asked to pay £40 towards the standard option of help. This includes easy to use equipment to switch one TV, an approved installer, an aerial upgrade if needed and a 12 month aftercare service, including a free helpline. The service is free for people who are eligible and who also receive pension credit, income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance.

If you are eligible, the Help Scheme will write to you directly and in plenty of time to ask if you want help. All you need to do is respond to our letter by sending back a completed reply form or to make things even easier you can call the Help Scheme free to respond.

Eligible people in our local area have been identified and should have received a letter to explain the switchover programme, and the people must respond to get help. There will be 2 further reminders. Many of the eligible people will be fortunate to have relatives, friends or neighbours to assist them with their response. However, some are not so fortunate, and the concern is that these people are amongst those least likely to understand the process.

If you feel that you know of people that are most in need, and who may not be aware of the Switchover or where to go to get help, then please contact: Jo Metson, Village Agent, Telephone: 07540 720 609, Email: jo.metson@vaessex.org.uk

For further information on the Switchover Help Scheme visit helpscheme.co.uk or call 0800 40 85 900. Textphone users can call 0800 40 85 936.

The Three Elms

A big hello from Pete & Gill!

Pete and I have recently moved into The Three Elms after spending four years managing a pub in London. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience though our main aim was to return to the countryside.

Pete is from Shropshire and I am from East Essex. We 'fell in love' with The Three Elms and it's idyllic location.

After a shaky start we are now open offering real ales, real ciders and good food. Refreshed with country air and inspired by our surrounds we are enthusiastic to build up the business whilst maintaining the atmosphere of a 'real country pub.' We aim to use as much local produce as we can.

Thank you to those of you who have already paid us a visit and we look forward to meeting and becoming part of the rest of the community.

Essex County Council

Within the next few weeks we will all be hearing about the **2011 Census**. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) manages and runs the **Census** in England and Wales. The purpose of the national **Census** is to gain an accurate statistical picture of our community so that it will enable the county councils, local authorities and their partners in the public sector to design and provide services that meet the needs of all residents. Of course it is also important that accurate numbers of residents are recorded so that, for example, the **Essex County Council** and its partners receive the correct funding allocation from central government.

The actual **Census** will be conducted on Sunday 27th March and will count everybody who is resident in Essex on that day; the **Census** questionnaire form will be delivered to every household between 7th and 25th March. For those who wish it, the return can also be made on-line. The **Census** questionnaire will not only cover basic demographic questions, but also issues such as housing, health, occupations / employment, migration, ethnicity etc. However, it should be noted that the personal information provided by households will not be shared with the **County Council** or other organisations as it is protected by law and will be kept confidential for 100 years. The national **Census** is conducted every 10 years and each varies slightly to take into account changes in our society. This time the **Census** seeks to better account for population diversity and special attention is being paid to hard-to-count, under-represented groups, including the disabled and/or very elderly people, ethnic minority groups, non-English speaking people, unemployed people, students and other young adults and also gypsy / traveller and other groups where response has historically been low.

It should be added that completion of the **Census** questionnaire is a legal requirement. Failure to complete the **Census** form could lead a prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000.

Free help and support to complete the Census will be available to all residents. From 5th March the **Census Help Line** will be **0300 0201101** or www.census.gov.uk

Councillor Nicolette Chambers, Member for Chelmsford Rural West

OUR REACTION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT

The Government has announced their funding for Local Government for the next two years. From next April, Chelmsford Borough Council will receive approximately £1.4 million less grant than in previous years which represents a 16.4% reduction in 2011/12. This is followed by a further 6% reduction in 2012/13.

The leader of the Council has stated "The Council has been preparing for this for some time and is able to balance its budget in 2011/12 through the identification of significant efficiency savings and through the prudent use of its balances. The Council has already reduced the number of Service Directors from 17 to 8 in line with government expectations. We will protect front line delivery of high quality local services to our residents".

These reductions in grant are the highest ever experienced by Local Government and had the Government kept to the previous way of calculating this grant, the actual reduction would have been only £26,000. Instead they have redirected over £1.4 million of grant that should be used to support Chelmsford's services to other Councils within the country. The Council will be making representations to the Government regarding the redirection of this grant.

Mobile Customer Information Service –dates for 2011

Chelmsford Borough Council offers a free service to some of the more isolated or vulnerable communities within the borough to ensure that everyone has access to Council services. A schedule of visits for 2011 can be found on the Council's website at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/mobileinfo.

The mobile Customer information team currently visits ten rural communities around the borough or where public transport is perhaps less frequent, to ensure that residents with the greatest need for advice and support, such as the elderly, young families and those with mobility requirement, have access to information and advice about Council Services. This service offers advice on how to seek help with housing benefit, council tax, bus passes (for individuals aged 60 and over), environmental problems, leisure, tourism and re-cycling.

Some of these sessions are attended by the PCSOs from Essex Police for their beat surgeries and Essex Fire & Rescue Service to promote safety in the home.

If access to the website is a problem, please telephone the Customer Services team on 01245 606891. As always, I am available to discuss matters relating to your local parish or Chelmsford Borough Council

Telephone 01245 456719 or email n.chambers@chelmsford.gov.uk

**NEXT WARD SURGERY: ROXWELL MEMORIAL HALL
SATURDAY MARCH 5TH – 11.00 AM – 12.00 NOON**

Chignal Parish Council

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10th JANUARY 2011
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A parishioner requested information on the storage of grit in the Parish and it was explained that Councillors had decided that there was no suitable place in the Chignals for storage.

Reservations were expressed on the continuation of the twice weekly bus service following the provision of a shopping bus direct from Good Easter to a local supermarket and investigations will be made to confirm that the bus through the Chignals will not be axed.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Chambers explained that a Mobile Customer Information Service is available for isolated areas who will visit the Parish on a monthly basis if required.

Councillor Chambers agreed to provide information on the make-up of Special Expenses for Chignal before the figures are presented to Council on 16th February.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

NEWSLETTER INCL. WEBSITE – there have been no problems with distribution.

GRAVEL LIAISON – the next meeting will be held in April. It was reported that the Cemex Plant is in the process of being removed with the exception of the concrete block. There are no restoration plans at present because of delays through inclement weather. No complaints have been registered.

VILLAGE WATCH – no new co-ordinator has been appointed and it was explained that in future, information will be more e-mail based. Any Neighbourhood Action Panel information will be e-mailed by PCSO Gina Bennett.

HIGHWAYS – Problems with flooded ditches near Stevens Farm were reported and will be investigated. A burst pipe in Chignal Smealey has been repaired.

It was reported that the chevron near Ivy Cottage has not been repaired and the Highways Department will be reminded that the work is still outstanding.

FOOTPATHS /BRIDLEWAYS – Further walks were organised with the first taking place at 10 a.m. on Friday 11th February starting from the Green, Chignal St. James.

TELEPHONE KIOSK – it was proposed and agreed that a lock be purchased and fitted as soon as possible.

PLANNING

The Bungalow – demolition and erection of new dwelling – application approved

Westleas – single storey rear extension – application approved.

Stevens Farm – conversion of cart lodge to garaging – approved.

Mineral Development – consultation 9 December 2010 – 17 February 2011. There have been no comments from Councillors and it was explained that the proposed extraction is from a site in Roxwell which should not effect the Chignals.

NOTICE BOARDS – It was reported that the date for delivery of the four boards will be mid February and the boards will then be varnished and posts purchased. Two boards will be resited, the board at present in the grounds of the Three Elms to land adjacent to the telephone kiosk at Chignal St. James and the board situated near Woodhall Farm will be repositioned to the car park of the Pig & Whistle Public House.

REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PANEL

PCSO Gina Bennett had been unable to attend the meeting but it was agreed that any urgent information from Essex Police would be passed to Chris Philpot who will act as temporary co-ordinator until a new neighbourhood watch co-ordinator is found.

LATE URGENT BUSINESS

The next Village Clean-Up Day was arranged for Saturday 26th March 2011.

Confirmation has been received that Village Agents will continue to serve the community for the foreseeable future.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 14th March 2011 followed by the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 8.00 p.m.

Editorial by Linda Nelson

Another bumper issue of the Chignal News, this one has spread to 10 pages.

We have more contributions from our councillors with both John and Nicolette providing articles for the newsletter. On the issue of potential cuts, I regularly use both the mobile library and the North Melbourne library; I hope many of you do too. As part of the savings review all councils are undertaking, Essex County Council is going out to consultation with regards to opening hours of libraries and the stops the mobile libraries make. I understand that the Council have made a commitment that no community will lose its service but we may lose stops. If you do not want to lose your stop, it is important that you take the opportunity to participate in the consultation, which runs from **Monday 14th February – Sunday 27th March 2011**. You can complete a form at your local library or visit www.essex.gov.uk/libraries to complete an on-line form.

It would be wonderful to have some articles from parishioners from time to time. Having read the poignant obituary for Janet Clarke, it is a shame to get to know the history of a villager only after they have passed away.

My Aunt is busy tracing our family tree currently and has found it difficult to find out information about “ordinary people”, so much of ordinary people’s lives is unknown, but a good source of information can be local newspapers, so I do think it is important to record a little of our village history for the future. I was thinking that it might be interesting to do a feature on villagers, so if you would be prepared to participate – please let me know, otherwise I might need to be the first guinea pig, although I am only a relatively new resident of the parish.

I would also like to remind you of our website www.essexinfo.net/thechignals. I try to keep this updated to keep it fresh and relevant; however, I need content from the clubs and villagers to keep it so. Please take some time to have a look at the site and if you would like to add to its content or offer feedback please get in touch. My contact details are on the bottom of the last page.

I know last year that some parishioners missed the start of the parish meeting as the March meeting is followed by the Annual meeting, so if you want to participate in the public session of the meeting you need to be at the Village Hall for a 7 p.m. Start on Monday 14th March.

Finally, I thought you might be interested in a horse level view of the Winter wonderland we recently experienced. The photos below were taken from my horse Opal around Mashbury.



St. Nicholas' Church

Greetings to you all from St. Nicholas Church. Despite the long dreary days of late January early signs of Spring are evident amidst our hedgerows and gardens, a few snowdrops, primroses and catkins are to be seen. The fields are becoming greener. These signs of new life are a reminder of Our Lord's resurrection with which comes the promise of eternal life, a great source of comfort and solace for those grieving for their loved ones. Our special prayers and wishes are sent to the family of the late Janet Clarke, her funeral was held here at St Nicholas on 7th February.

I am sure you all felt the prolonged cold spell back in December and the effects which came with it. One of these consequences was a rupture to the mains water supply running under the church gate, making it dangerous to enter the church gate. Due to this our village carol service was cancelled. We give our sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused. On a much happier note a delightful crib service was held Christmas Eve. Special thanks to Thomas of Boyton Hall, the 'Yardley Boys' of Howletts Hall and the 'Thomas Boys' of Moat House for their splendid contributions. Well done boys! The church looked delightful; much effort must have gone into the beautiful floral displays. They were very appreciated on Christmas Eve and at our Christmas Day service. In addition to this they provided a ray of colour throughout January. Thank you to all concerned.

It will soon be time to decorate our Church for Easter. We will be holding a flower decorating party on Saturday 23rd April at 10 a.m. You are welcome to come along and join us. With longer days and 'spring' sunshine to look forward to we wish you all well. Best wishes Tony Towns (Church Warden tel no: 440241)

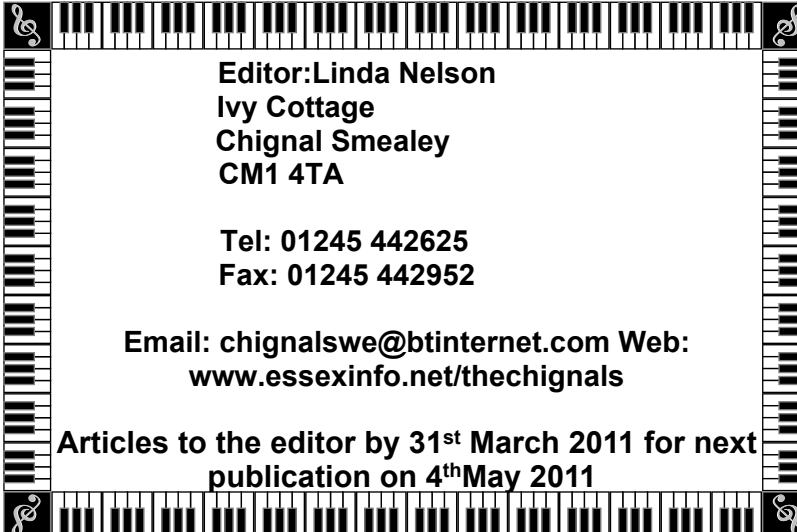
From the Church Register

Funeral Janet Clarke 7th February

Services:

3rd April 11a.m. Mothering Sunday – 'A Service for all Ages'
24th April Easter Communion
Every Sunday a service is held at 11 a.m. – Everybody Welcome




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