No. 152 March 2012





### The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Village Oak Planting

The planting on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012 by Mrs Cherry Scott of an English Oak\*, donated by Chelmsford Borough Council, marked the start of a series of special events in the Chignals to celebrate the Queen's 60 years on the throne.

Guest of honour Cherry has lived in Chignal Parish since she was six months old and works tirelessly behind the scenes for the benefit of the local community. To the great interest of newer residents, she was able to recall events in the village to celebrate the Queen's coronation and, more recently, her Silver Jubilee.

The event took place on The Green in Chignal St James where celebratory drinks were served. The event was well attended by parishioners across the generations, as well as two horses, ridden by Linda Nelson and her friend Sandra Watts and two beagles who came with Julia and Stephen Smart.

A commemorative slate plaque and a tree guard have been provided by Chignal Parish Council to commemorate the event.

Parish council chairman Chris Philpot expressed his thanks to everyone for making the occasion such a success.

Jackie Feltwell held an open house serving coffee and biscuits to bring the proceedings to a close.





\*Quercus robur, "English Oak" is a rugged large deciduous spreading tree developing a magnificent, broad crown. It is native to the UK and is normally grown as a specimen tree in a large park or garden, reaching 30m in height with a spread of 25m. The grey brown bark of this mature oak is fissured and it has dark green very short stalked leaves to 14cm which are ovate/oblong with rounded lobes. To thrive, the English Oak needs to be grown in deep fertile well drained soil in sun or partial shade. It can be propagated by sowing seeds (acorns) in containers in a cold frame or seed bed when ripe.

*Quercus robur* was named for its robust or sturdy nature (*robur* means strength in Latin), and since iron tools were first made, people have been felling this mighty tree for its strong and durable timber. It can take as long as 150 years before an oak is ready to be used for construction purposes.



Village Clean-up

9 a.m. 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012 Meet at the Village Hall or Woodhall House



### "A Tasting for Spring"

The Group met on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2012 at the Village Hall and it is very pleasing to report that there was a very strong turn out with 26 Members present.

Chairman Norman Smith opened the evening by introducing an old friend of the Group, Dickie Bird (AIWS), who was to give a presentation entitled "A Tasting for Spring".

The wines in order of presentation were as follows : -

Whites : Linar de Vides, Bodega Coto Redondo, Rias Baixas, Spain
2010 Albarino 12.5 % @ £12.76
Azienda Agricola Pieropan, Veneto, Italy
2010 Soave Classico 12.0 % @ £14.76
Maritimus, Sumaridge, Western Cape, South Africa
2009 A blended wine consisting of Sauvignon Blanc (55%) Chardonnay (30%) and Semillon (15%) @ £13.96

Reds : -

Cote de Brouilly, Domaine de la Voutes de Crozes, France 2009 Beaujolais 12.5% @ £15.76 Queulat, Gran Reserva, Vina Ventisquero, Chile 2008 Pinot Noir 13.50 % @ £11.99 Enamore, Bodega Renacer, Mendoza, Argentina 2008 A blended wine consisting of Malbec (62%), Bonarde (9%), Syrah (4%), Cabernet Sauvignon (14%) and Cabernet Franc (11%) @ £23.96

### All prices quoted above are per single bottle

The Group were treated to a well balanced tasting with a selection of wines from both the Old and New World that had been carefully selected to not only meet the criteria and theme for the evening but also with both quality and value for money in mind.

At the end of the presentation, the Group agreed that it had been an extremely good Tasting that had enlightened them in terms of appreciating good quality wines for drinking in Spring.

The general consensus of opinion was that the "Stand Out" wines on the evening for both quality and value for money were the Albarino from Spain and the Pinot Noir from Chile although the Enamore blend produced by Mendoza from Argentina probably took overall pride of place if you prefer a heavyweight red wine for what was still thought to be a very reasonable price.

Chairman Norman Smith proposed a sincere vote of thanks to Dickie for his presentation which was endorsed by all of the Members present with acclamation.

The Group continue to meet on the second Friday of every month throughout the year with the exception of August.

Anyone who is interested in joining or attending should contact the Honorary Secretary Dave Thomas on 01245 442474.

Steve Lucas CSJ Wine Discovery Group, Publicity Relations Officer



## Women's Institute

At the January meeting it was really good to welcome five new members, especially local the local ladies, Bridgette Broom, Avril Cumbers and Sylvia Lidbury together with Carol Bird from Napier Court and Doreen Purvis from Avon Road who is rejoining us after a three year break. These new members are just the boost we needed at the start of our Diamond jubilee year. Everyone present recalled some memories of the early fifties for our reminiscence afternoon, younger members who hadn't been born then, had asked older relatives for their memories. It proved to be a most interesting afternoon bringing back memories of sweet shops after rationing, Butlins, Festival of Britain, the Coronation, street parties, local chapel choir singing 'Messiah' with massed choirs at the Albert Hall, hop picking in Kent, potato picking and 'scrumping' apples!. One member who worked for a London couturier helped with the restoration of the official robes for the lords and ladies attending the coronation. There will be more memories as the year goes on. On the third Thursday a new 'Knit and Natter' group met at Janet's house and had an enjoyable time, this will continue and the group will make knitted items for charity. We are looking forward to a return visit from jeweller Mr. David Vroobel in February, he is going to tell us about the Crown Jewels. We have recently heard that one of our members, Anita Howard, has won one of the poetry prizes from the Essex Federation of WIs who are running a variety of events to celebrate their 95 anniversary this year. Anita will be reading her poem at the Cliffs Pavilion in March when hundreds of WI members from all over Essex will be gathering for the Federation AGM. Anita will also be our speaker at our March meeting when she will remind us of the World of Children's Poetry. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

> March 1<sup>st</sup> World of Children's poetry Mrs. Anita Howard April 5<sup>th</sup> Our Diamond Jubilee Lunch May 3<sup>rd</sup> Discussions of the National resolutions. Details Myra Wilkins 440 659.



Art Group 'Chignal4Art' The group met on the fourth Thursday and started by discussing the exhibition of work by David Hockney. Some had already seen the exhibition and were very impressed. We also looked at Winter landscapes and Spring Flowers. It is hoped that the group will exhibit quite a few of their paintings in the Jubilee exhibition held in June at the Village Hall. Details from Myra 440 659

## North Melbourne Library

We are currently working with our Local Children's Centre to deliver some combined Baby and Toddler story time/craft sessions. These are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 1.45pm - 3.00pm (for parents/cares and their children aged 0-5yrs)

During the February Half Term we held an event for primary school children 'How much do you know about Michael Morpurgo?' with lots of stories and activities based on his books. Look out for our Easter Craft events during the school holidays.

Opening hours: Tue 9.00 - 5.00 Fri 9.00 - 5.00 Sat 9.00 - 5.00

#### Mandy Simioni – Library Supervisor

North Melbourne Library (Attached to Newland Spring School) Dickens Place, Copperfield Road, Chelmsford Tel: 01245 442292

# **Gardening Club**

We were very fortunate to secure a speaker at short notice for our January meeting as Alex Bass had to cancel his talk to us about the river Colne. Instead, we were delighted to hear from **Mr Jan Michalak** about the history and painstaking restoration of **Thorpe Hall Gardens**, a listed garden at Thorpe le Soken, near Clacton.

We were entertained with stories about horticultural luminaries, such as William Robinson, Gertrude Jekyll, Amos Perry, Will Ingerson and E.A Bowles who had an input into the development of Thorpe Hall garden commissioned by Lord and Lady Byng, who bought Thorpe Hall, Thorpe le Soken in 1913. Lady Byng created a 'wild garden' landscape, with water and rock gardens using a variety of plants from across the globe, particularly from New Zealand, South Africa and North America where her husband served as Governor General of Canada in the early 1920s. She accepted gifts of plants from John Boscawen of Cornish gardens fame and Edwin Hillier of Hillier's Nursery, as well as receiving a share of plants from Harold Combers' second plant hunting expedition.

We were fascinated to learn that some of the original plants had been re-discovered and some 6,000 plants have been raised from this stock as cold cuttings in sand outdoors. The garden is not generally open to the public but several guided tours are offered during the summer: <u>www.lifehouse.co.uk/garden-grounds</u>

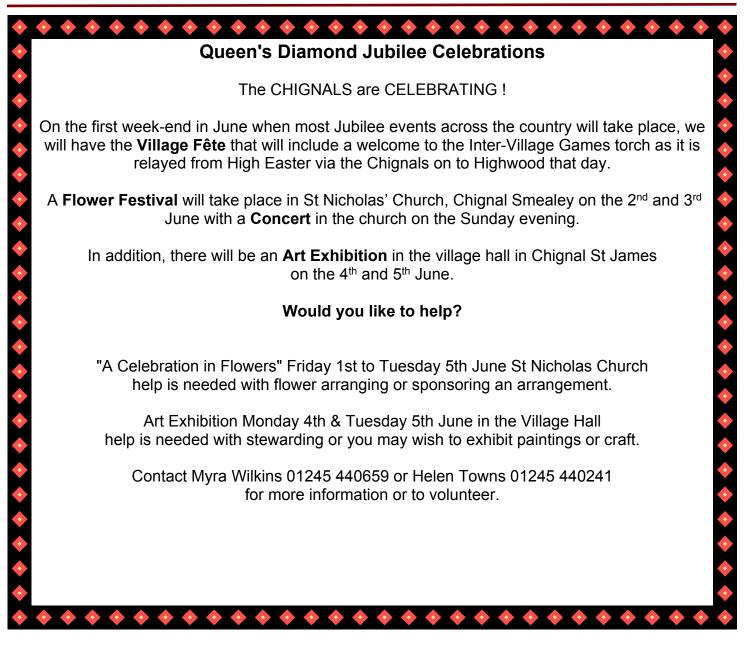




Our most recent talk was on **15<sup>th</sup> February 2012** and focused on **"The Gardener's Year"**, which was given by **Mr Harry Brickwood**, owner of "Orchard Cottage Garden", Rayleigh, which the Club visited in July 2011, (see report in Chignal News No.149, September 2011). Harry is also Secretary of the Essex branch of the Hardy Plants Society.

Our next talk is on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012. Mr Barry Kaufmann-Wright**, one of the first Police Wildlife Liaison Officers who will speak to us on a hot topic for many of us gardeners: **"Badgers".** 

For more information about the Chignal and Mashbury Gardening Club, please contact John Dennis (Chairman) on 01245 440289 or Lynn Ballard (Secretary) 01245 440880.



# **Chignal** Chapel

We thank everybody who came to the Village Carol Service and so generously contributed to the offering which amounted to £230.

This was divided between Little Haven Hospice and St Lawrence Children's Hospice, Romania.

Our 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary falls this year and coincides with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations on the first weekend in June.

We are hoping to produce a booklet and would appreciate it if anyone has old pictures that we could borrow(or copies ) of the Chapel or Chapel goers, or any reminiscences or information that we could include.

Please contact Malcolm or Irene on 01245 442198 or ireneandmalcolm@hotmail.co.uk.

### **Essex County Council**

The **Essex County Council** has agreed to freeze council tax for the second year running and is projecting to have saved nearly £330 million by March 2013 through its new ways of working, better procurement and other savings. But, like all public sector bodies, it is facing up to balancing an ever growing need for services with an ever decreasing amount of funding to provide them. The **County Council's** financial plans have been developed to help prepare for the anticipated levels of funding for future years. Even taking into account the £123m savings planned for 2012/13 and further savings in 2013/14, there is still a predicted budget shortfall of £4 million in 2013/14 and a potential £34 million in 2014/15.

The **County Council's** share of the Band D council tax in 2009-10 was £1,066.50, in 2010-11 was £1,086.75, in 2011- 12 was £1,086.75 and for 2012 - 13 will be £1,086.75

### **Olympic Mountain Biking - Hadleigh Farm**

**Essex County Council** confirm that, following the feedback gathered from last year's Hadleigh Farm Consultation, it will be working with *Architrail* and *Capita Symonds Countryside Management*, to help create plans to adapt the Olympic Mountain Bike track at Hadleigh Farm for public use. Although no detailed plans have yet been prepared the **County Council** will be hosting more meetings with local groups and other interested parties before outline proposals are developed and shared with all residents later this year.

For more information on the Hadleigh Farm venue or to keep informed about the development of the Olympic Legacy plans, please sign up to the **County's monthly** newsletter at <u>www.essexlegacy.org</u>

### No Excuse for Poor Driving

You will by now have seen some of the posters advertising the 'no excuse' road safety campaign launched by the Essex Casualty Reduction Board (ECRB) which is targeting motorists who are driving poorly in and around Chelmsford to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the **County's** roads.

Over the coming months ECRB and its partners (which include Police, Fire and Road Safety Officers, the Highways Agency and the East of England Ambulance Service) will be running overt and covert enforcement operations and events, all over Essex. These events will target key poor driving behaviours including speeding, drink driving, the use of handheld mobile phones whilst driving and drivers and passengers who do not wear seatbelts. There have been a numbers of events supporting the ECRB initiative such as Education on driving behaviour at Broomfield Library and a Speedwatch event at Broomfield Primary School.

We all have a part to play in this campaign and I hope that the ECRB can count on support from drivers in achieving safer roads for everyone in Essex. Remember, there's no excuse for poor driving. For more information contact Louise Alabaster on 01245 434216 or email <u>louise.alabaster@essex.gov.uk</u>

## **Essex County Council**

### Full Time Foster Carers Needed Throughout Essex – Could this be you?

With the start of the New Year, **Essex County Council** is asking people with experience of working with or caring for children and young people and who are thinking of a change of direction, to consider a career as a foster carer. Under the new fee paid scheme, foster carers receive up to £19,500 per annum caring for children in their own home. There are also generous allowances to cover other costs of caring for children. For example, a foster carer looking after two children aged 11-15 would receive an additional £372.96 per week in allowances. Foster carers come from a wide range of backgrounds. No specific qualifications are necessary to become a carer but potential applicants will need plenty of determination, empathy and a desire to make a difference to a child who has had a difficult start in life.

Jim Bond, Chairman of the **Essex Foster Carers Association** and a long term foster carer himself said: "Fostering is the best job I've ever done and has been rewarding in seeing young people manage to cope with the past difficulties and move on to positive things in the future. It is hard work but every bit of the effort is worthwhile."

For more information visit <u>www.essex.gov.uk/fostering</u> or call 0800 801 530.

### Essex Chosen for Whole Place Community Budget Pilot

**Essex** has been chosen as one of only four areas in England to pilot a radical and innovative new model of public service. The **Whole Place Community Budget** will see public sector partners in **Essex** coming together to redesign services around the needs of local communities and citizens. The proposals could reshape the way **Essex** partners use the £10.4 billion currently spent on local public services. The Pilot could assist for example in:-

- Simplifying processes for older people using the health and social care system;
- Reshaping local skills provision for young people.
- Joining-up services to reduce the costs of dealing with problem families.

The Pilot will see the **County Council**, **District and Borough Councils**, the **NHS** and **Essex Police** better co-ordinate existing services and, where necessary, pool resources to tackle local challenges by focussing resources on the issues that matter most to us. **Essex** has always been a pioneering County and, by helping the Government to develop community budgets, it is once again leading the way.

In January a team of Whitehall advisors began working with officials from across the County's public services to design and implement the **Whole Place Community Budget.** 

Further information about community budgets can be found at <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/">http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/</a>

If you have any problems concerning **County Council** matters please let me know on 01245 421524 or email <u>cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk</u>

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - A parishioner expressed concern at some discrepancies included in the retrospective planning application for the change of use of Unit 4 at Chignal Hall Farm and clarification was requested on the term 'industrial use'.

POLICE REPORT – Some minor incidents have occurred in the Parish in the last month and parishioners were requested to keep a vigilant watch on electricity sub-stations. A date is to be confirmed for the next Action Panel meeting.

COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillor Aldridge reported that ECC has improved its provision for Children's Services (Safeguarding Children) and is now in the 'adequate' category. Changes are being activated within the Highways Department by introducing new systems with one contractor being appointed for highways maintenance. Major road works will be taken to Member Panels in future and it was confirmed that funding is still available for infilling potholes.

Councillor Chambers explained that the Borough Council is setting up a Youth Panel for 14 – 18 year olds and volunteers are needed to become members of the Panel.

Councillor Chambers explained that up to £1,000 is available as a Community grant for any group having a project for consideration. The Borough Council is continuing a service to provide help for elderly parishioners requiring assistance in the home, garden etc.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – The Chairman requested a date for the annual Clean-Up Day which was agreed to take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLAYING FIELDS – Broomfield Football Club's Under 8's team are using the playing field on Saturdays mornings. There are no problems with the use of the field or with parking.

VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – it was reported that work to improve the kitchen has started and should be completed by 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012..

NEWSLETTER INCL. WEBSITE – Dates for items to the editor and publication dates were agreed for 31<sup>st</sup> January – 28<sup>th</sup> February, 20<sup>th</sup> March – 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 20<sup>th</sup> May – 17<sup>th</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> July – 17 August, 20<sup>th</sup> September – 10<sup>th</sup> October and 20<sup>th</sup> November for publication 10<sup>th</sup> December.

GRAVEL LIAISON – at the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011Lafarge explained that a planning application will be submitted for an extension of time until March 2015 for the closure of the pits. Lafarge will also apply for planning for a third extractor because of an excess of methane on the site..

HIGHWAYS – Concern was expressed on an overhanging hedge at the Rectory corner and residents will be contacted to request maintenance work to be carried out.

TELEPHONE BOX, CHIGNAL ST. JAMES - a further use for the kiosk was suggested which will be discussed with the Gardening Club.

TREE WARDEN – it was agreed that the Jubilee Oak be planted on the Village Green on 28<sup>th</sup> January. Protection will be organised for the tree and a plaque will be erected at a later date.

PLANNING – Applications for Brick Barns – amendment to previous application and Chignal Hall – temporary change of use of agricultural building were both approved. Observations on the retrospective application for change of use of Unit 4 at Chignal Hall will be sent to the Borough Council by 20<sup>th</sup> January. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE – it was agreed to purchase paperweights for each child in the Parish.

INTER VILLAGE OLYMPICS - The route for the torch procession is to be finalised with the games taking place at the end of June when Chignal will host the carpet bowls.

PURCHASE OF THE VILLAGE GREEN – a sub-committee is to be set up to discuss the purchase.

FUNDING FROM PLANNING GRANT – it was explained that £1,279 is available for the Parish as a result of a recent planning approval, to be used for visible improvements in the Parish.

PARISH ORCHARD – ten householders have expressed an interest in a parish orchard and two possible sites have been suggested with further discussions to take place before a decision is made.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8 p.m.

## Inter-Village Games, 2nd June – 7th July, 2012

It has been confirmed that the Villages that have chosen to participate are: Berners, Abbess & Beauchamp Rodings ("Berners Roding"); Chignal St. James & Chignal Smealey ("The Chignals"); Good Easter & High Easter ("The Easters"); Highwood; Matching Green/The Lavers; Moreton; Roxwell; and, Willingale. Blackmore has yet to confirm.

The following **games/events** have been confirmed as having participants from the Chignals: Badminton; Carpet Bowls (to be hosted by the Chignals); Clay Pigeon Shooting; Cricket; Croquet; Equestrian – dressage; Golf; Quiz; Table Tennis; Tennis; Torch Procession; 10K Trail Run; Tug of War; and, Volleyball

Eligibility: competitors may represent a village if:

- they or their parents live in the village; or
- they are at school in the village;
- they are employed in the village; or
- they regularly attend an organisation in the village.

The Torch Relay will pass through the villages on the Queen's Jubilee week-end. Luckily, the Torch will be carried through the Chignals on Saturday 2 June between 12.15 – 2.15pm so we will be able to welcome the torch bearers at the opening of the Village Fête at Woodhall. A route is being worked out to take the torch from the Easters around the Chignals 'circle' and on to Highwood. We are looking for volunteers, including families with children, to carry the torch for about 1/4 mile each by running/walking or on horseback, bike or wheelchair.

The Grand Finals Day will be held on July 7th in Roxwell to coincide with the passing of the official Olympic Torch between Chelmsford and Harlow. The finals of the competitions, staged during the proceeding weeks, will take place and be followed by a tug-of-war, quiz, hog-roast, music and dancing.

I shall be in touch with everyone who has expressed an interest in participating in the inter-village games to put you in touch with your fellow Chignal team members and with the overall organiser for each sport. In addition, I shall attempt to get everyone together on a Saturday morning in February/March.

For more information please contact: Lynn Ballard, tel: 01245 440880, email: lynn\_ballard@btinternet.com





Greetings to you all from the congregation of St Nicholas Church.

We have some very positive and encouraging news to report. Reg Norris one of our lay readers retired last year, Rose Bradbury from Littley Green and Sandra Sykes from Little Leighs have filled the gap left by Reg. They both have rural interests, Rose keeps hens, loves to garden and Sandra rides out on her four legged friend. They are a delight to listen too. They alternate taking the service the first Sunday in the month. DO come along and meet them. Some of you might of noticed that the organ is no longer in the church. The organ has gone away to be refurbished and will be back with us for the CHIGNALS CELEBRATE festivities, which we hope many of you will join in. It was lovely to see many of you at our Christmas festivities. The church as always looked delightful. Many thanks to all who helped with the decorating. A family service will be held on Mothering Sunday, to be officiated by Diana Garfield. Diana takes our Christmas Crib Service and is known to many of you. She has recently completed her theology studies and has graduated with a PhD. I'm sure you join with us in sending her our very sincere congratulations. We will be decorating the church for Easter on Easter Saturday. YOUR help would be very much appreciated. We have exciting events to look forward too, our Queen has served us faithfully and like all of us has experienced grief, family torment and sorrow but despite all her anxieties she has steadfastly stood by her God and country. May we follow her example. Spring flowers are to be seen in our gardens and hedgerows, a sign of new life, during lent may the the crucifixion of Gods Son on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter Day take on a new meaning to each one of us.

Best wishes to you all

Tony Towns(church warden telephone no 01245440241).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

18<sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday 11am St Nicholas Church.
7<sup>th</sup> April (Sat) decorating the church for Easter 10am onwards.
8<sup>th</sup> April EASTER WORSHIP 11am.
31<sup>st</sup> May(Thurs) flower festival preparations.
3<sup>rd</sup> June(Sun)Concert followed by strawberry supper ,N.B no morning service.
2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June flower festival in the church.
4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June art exhibition in the village hall.

A SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY 11 am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED TO WHICH YOU ARE WARMLY WELCOMED.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER March 2<sup>nd</sup>(Friday) 2pm St.Martins Church Little Waltham EVERYBODY WELCOME

