



## Editorial by Linda Nelson

---

I do not usually put my editorial on the front page, but I really did not have an event that I could use for the front page, so if you have any interesting articles that would “grab” the headline page or even grace the remaining pages please submit them, I will try to use them all.

This winter seems to be endless with the amount of rain and snow we have been having. I hate all the mud it creates and driving along the country lanes can be challenging to say the least. There is some compensation though, the snow does make our countryside even more beautiful and as I recently treated myself to a new camera, I took the opportunity to try some of its features. I especially like the panoramic function, which produced the scene below.

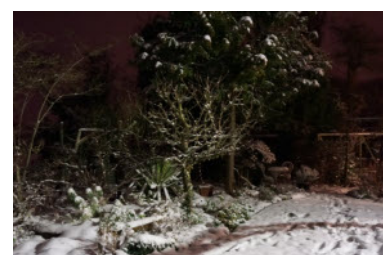
Along with many villagers, I recently attended the funerals of Gordon Lee and Marian Lambert, which were held on consecutive days in St. Nicholas Church.

On these occasions, I always find it sad that you do not find out how much a person has achieved in their life until you attend their funeral. It made me think that perhaps, we should all do more to get to know people in our community a little better.

Many of you may know Dr Geoffrey; a regular diner and quizzer at the Pig & Whistle pub, who has been recently taken ill. We send Geoffrey our best wishes for a speedy recovery.



**Village Clean-up**  
9 a.m.  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012  
Meet at the  
Village Hall or  
Woodhall House



# Chignal Wine Discovery Group

---

Traditionally December is the month in which the Wine Group holds their Christmas Dinner and this year we followed tradition. A large gathering 34 members met in the Village Hall, where they sat down to an excellent meal prepared and served by Mike and Jan Smail and their helpers. Needless to say there were copious amounts of good wine to accompany the food. All present agreed that it was a most enjoyable evening which passed all too quickly.

In January Joanna Goodman from The Wine Society gave a presentation under the general title 'Something completely different'. Joanna's idea was to present wines made in the main from relatively rare and unknown grape varieties. The evening gave us a fascinating insight into these rarer varieties. The wines tasted were;

1. Auxerrois, Chateau de Shengen,2010 which is made in Luxembourg from the Auxerrois grape a distant relative of chardonnay.
2. Reully Pinot Gris,2011 made in France from the pinot gris
3. Chrismont Bianco della Casa,2009 made in Australia from thra-neis, savagnin and reisling grapes.
4. Guimaro Mencia, Ribeira Sacra,2011 made in Spain from the Mencia grape
5. Thymiopoulos Naoussa,2011 made in Greece from the xynomavro grape.
6. Grenouillere, Vin de Pays de Vendee, 2009 made in France from the negrette grape
7. Maydie Tannat Vintage,2009 a sweet wine made in France from the tannat grape.

The group thoroughly enjoyed Joanna's presentation and the wines were all well received and good value for money.

Norman Smith



At the January meeting Janet Campen was welcomed as the new President. Janet will formally take over from Myra in April, until then they are working together 'in tandem!' At the December meeting one of our members Anita Howard entertained us very well with a talk on the History of Pantomimes. Oh! Yes she did!. As well as bringing in all the pantomime shouts which was most amusing, Anita traced the origins of pantomime back as far as Greek theatre. Anita told many tales of famous comedians who had made outrageous dames. Anita is a very talented and sparkling speaker and we are lucky to have her as a member. Anita's talk was followed by a splendid Christmas tea with secret Santa doing the rounds. In January we listened to a talk by Allan Hilliar from Felsted Aid for Deprived Children in the Chernobyl area. We all felt quite humbled by the amount of work this organisation does and amazed by the dedication of volunteers like Allan. Allan's talk was full of joy and hope and we will continue to work for this charity. If anyone would like to knit jumpers or hats or quilts then please get in touch with Janet on 440 223. In February we are having a meeting where we will discuss our personal crafts and collections, this will be a good chance to talk to new members and visitors, so do come along. In March Mr. Simon Dinsdale is giving a talk on being a Royal Bodyguard. This is still very much a Royal year as the Coronation will be celebrated in June. There is a good varied programme thought the year with many extras organised by Essex Federation.

Details phone Janet 440 223

Art at the Fete. I will not be staging Art at the fete this year. If anyone would like to take over, or if you would like to stage another event then please let Cherry know 441241.

I would like to thank all local artists who made this possible; I think the visitors were always impressed with the show. An even larger 'thank you' to Beryl and Norman for letting me use their beautiful conservatory to stage the event.

Details Myra 440 659

## Bowl's Club

The Bowls Club had an enjoyable Xmas Supper in December. The evening began with the Pairs Competition for the Shield. This was won by Ann and Sheila, with Runners-up being Martyn Towns and Gordon Lee. Following the competition the Fish and Chips arrived, with many puddings enjoyed afterwards. Then came a superb raffle with the Hamper being won by Kevin. The evening ended with the, now traditional. Carol Singing. A very good evening.

We have now reached the Semi-Finals in the West Area Competition and are to play Chelmer Village for a place in the Final. Good Luck All! Soon we shall be starting our round of Friendly Matches, the first of which is against RHP in March. At the time of writing, some of our players are spending a week-end playing Pairs Matches at Potters in Norfolk. Last week the World Championships, this week, Chignal and Mashbury Bowls Club!

Finally, on a sad note, the death of Gordon Lee will leave a noticeable gap in our playing nights. Always cheerful and helpful, turning out to play every week, he will be much missed by everyone in the Club.





## The Chignals & Mashbury Jubilee Community Orchard

### February 2013 Orchard News

The community orchard has overcome some major hurdles since we last reported in December and we are on course to start planting in late February/March.

Chignal Parish Council has formally adopted the orchard project and has set up an Orchard Committee which will meet in public just before some parish council meetings. The Orchard Committee has a sub-committee comprising the small group of people who have been meeting since August to progress the orchard. This sub-committee is meeting fortnightly to advise the Parish Council on the future day to day management of the orchard. Residents of Mashbury will be informed about opportunities for formal involvement in the orchard project at their Village Meeting in the spring.

Support to create the orchard is coming from Edible Essex and the Lafarge Communities Fund and the Woodland Trust is providing us with over 400 hedgerow trees to plant around the site. A management plan is being drafted to guide the planting of the trees and wildflowers and the future maintenance of the orchard site: a list of some 70 fruit trees has now been agreed.

The City Council has drafted a 20 year lease for the orchard site at Howlett's Corner for agreement by Chignal Parish Council. We are working through the process of agreeing and signing the lease with the help of our local City Councilor.

We do trust that you want to get involved in this exciting project and we hope that we will soon be able to give you dates for our working parties.

The next Orchard Committee Meeting is at the village hall on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. Please come along to find out more.

Members of the sub committee are:

Malcolm Feltwell. Tel: 01245 441070. Email: [mandj@mjfeltwell.plus.com](mailto:mandj@mjfeltwell.plus.com)

Lynn Ballard. Tel: 01245 440880. Email: [lynn\\_ballard@btinternet.com](mailto:lynn_ballard@btinternet.com)

Moira Tarrant: Email: [M.tarrant@virgin.net](mailto:M.tarrant@virgin.net)

Simon Leadbeatter: Email: [SimonLeadbeatter@hotmail.com](mailto:SimonLeadbeatter@hotmail.com)

Chris Philpot: Email: [chris@cjhfarming.co.uk](mailto:chris@cjhfarming.co.uk)

Steve Middleditch: Email: [Steve.middleditch@btinternet.com](mailto:Steve.middleditch@btinternet.com)

Sandra Bailey: Email: [sandbail57@hotmail.com](mailto:sandbail57@hotmail.com)

Geoff Pitts

## “FRIENDS OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY”

Do you have an occasion when you need a helping hand?

If so, we can offer for example:

Assistance with Light Shopping

Help With Attending Appointments (Doctor, Dentist, Vets etc.)

Prescription Collection / Library Book Returns etc.

Help With Seeking Advice or Filling In Forms etc.

Companionship / Someone to Talk to

Light Domestic Duties etc., etc.

We realise that you may already have a kindly relative, friend or neighbour helping you in some way at the moment. However, on the odd occasion, there may be times that they are unable to be there for you. If so, please contact us on either of the following telephone numbers: 01245 440241 or 07587051344 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. and we will call you back as soon as possible to discuss your individual needs. Please leave your name and telephone number if we do not answer your call immediately. If you do not need support but would like to join Barbara and Helen with this venture, please telephone us as soon as possible.

## Dates for your Diary

---

Quiz in the Village Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in aid of Village Hall Funds.  
Light Supper provided. Tables of around six people, Clubs or individual groups.  
Bring your own drink, coffee and tea provided.

Gardening Club Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 a talk by Alex Bass on The river Colne from source to sea in the Village Hall.

# From Sir Alan Haslehurst MP

---

## RURAL BROADBAND

The Government and Essex County Council are pushing ahead with plans to roll-out broadband to rural areas.

If you wish to register your interest in the project and find out more about receiving faster speeds in areas which currently do not benefit from broadband, register your demand at [www.essex.gov.uk/ruralbroadband](http://www.essex.gov.uk/ruralbroadband) and encourage others to do so.

## ESSEX HIGHWAYS POTHOLE REPAIR PROGRAMME CONTINUES

With the bad weather we have experienced recently, the issue of potholes is high up on motorists' agendas.

Essex Highway is taking further decisive action to strengthen the county's road network and repair potholes.

Following the severe weather last year, Essex County Council invested an additional £11m to improve the condition of the county's roads,. The first phase of work focused on the number of outstanding defects waiting for repair, with over 40,000 potholes fixed by the end of October 2012.

Phase two of the programme is now getting underway, and focuses on resurfacing and strengthening roads across the county, to ensure that fewer potholes occur in the longer term.

In addition to this, specialist 'gangs' have been mobilised across the county to repair potholes which have formed due to the recent wet weather and snow. Repairs are being carried out as quickly as possible, and residents can help with this by reporting any potholes they see using the 'View It, Track It, Report It' function available at [www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways)

## GREEN DEAL

The Green Deal is the Government's pioneering programme to help people stay warm for less. It will let homes and businesses pay for energy efficiency improvements, like insulation, through savings on their fuel bills.

More and more families are being hit by the rising cost of gas and electricity, but our inefficient homes and businesses are using a lot more of it than they need to. Most of our homes have some basic insulation, but more than half still do not have enough insulation or an efficient condensing boiler. Authorised Green Deal assessors, providers and installers can offer 'whole house' property assessments and packages of energy efficiency improvements to help people make their homes warm and cosy. A new Energy Company Obligation (ECO) runs alongside the Green Deal, providing extra help for those properties that are harder to treat and for those households who are most in need.

For more information on how you can reduce your energy bills, see the opportunities available for local companies and to book an assessment, please contact the Energy Saving Advice Service (ESAS) on 0300 123 1234 and by logging on to [www.gov.uk/greendeal](http://www.gov.uk/greendeal)

## Council Tax

At the **County Council** meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February it was announced that **ECC** council tax will be frozen for the third successive year. As I have indicated before, the Council is currently on course to make over £360 million per annum in savings and efficiencies by March this year and has recently introduced a new programme to transform its current service provision with the aim of saving approximately a further £200 million by 2017. Important areas of focus for the **County Council** are to invest circa £65 million in maintaining and enhancing the county's network of over 8,500 miles of roads and footpaths, £2 million on providing more accommodation for vulnerable people and almost £18 million in providing additional school places across the County.

## Community Spirit

In my last newsletter I was advocating that we should all consider whether we can give a little time to our community to help those less well off than ourselves. This was part of the Campaign to End Loneliness <http://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org.uk/>. Since then I have been happy to support the initiative of the Bishop of Bradwell in his "Lent Invest" project which is asking people to give up a little of their time in the run up to Easter to help others in their neighbourhood. For more on Lent Invest go online to [www.OurOffering.org](http://www.OurOffering.org)

## Concessionary Bus Pass Renewal Reminder

Last year the **County Council** introduced a centralised system for bus pass applications across the whole County by automatic renewal rather than holders having to reapply for replacements. However, with 125,000 renewals due to be issued in the coming weeks, the County Council is keen to ensure that pass holders receive these on time and they are delivered to the right address. The deadline for updating personal information was set for 15<sup>th</sup> February; but if you are a pass holder and have had any problems with your renewal, go online to [buspass.team@essex.gov.uk](mailto:buspass.team@essex.gov.uk) or telephone 0845 200 0388.

## Computers for the Voluntary Sector

The **County Council** is disposing of a large number of redundant devices (desktops and laptops), some of which can be re-used by voluntary bodies once all data has been cleansed (e.g. pre and after school clubs, older people's schemes for IT literacy). A number of charities have been identified as having existing links with the County Council and have been invited to apply for "Community Computers". Once these initial requests are met the Scheme will be opened up to all charities in Essex. A website has been created [Community Computing website](#) for the scheme which offers the opportunity to request up to a maximum five PCs.

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

John Aldridge CC – March 2013

# Chignal Parish Council

---

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2013 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

## COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS –

County Councillor John Aldridge advised that complaints had been received regarding flooded ditches in the Parish and he confirmed that both ditches and gulleys needed clearing and he will check when maintenance will be carried out. He reported that ECC has been nominated for five awards as best run council in the country and is currently doing a survey to improve the speed of Broadband.

Councillor Nicolette Chambers reported that the licensing laws for the Scout Jamboree held last year have been adhered to but will check on timing for future events and, if necessary, request that these events finish earlier.

## REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

**PLAYING FIELDS** – the Parish Council agreed to the use of the field for car parking and a children's play area on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**VILLAGE HALL** – a committee meeting will take place shortly with the AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

**GRAVEL LIAISON** – a meeting took place on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2012 when it was reported that Lafarge has been awarded a contract for the tipping of domestic waste which will mean that the site should be filled within the agreed timetable. Future meetings will be chaired by a representative from the Parish Council. Alternative uses for the site when work is complete have been discussed including the use of the lake for fishing but this could cause problems with rights of way. A new 'minerals waste plan' is available for comment from 17.1. – 28.2.2012. Money is available for small projects in the Parish and parishioners should contact Lafarge direct for consideration for funding.

**VILLAGE WATCH** – it was reported that eight post boxes in the local area have been set alight recently and the telephone box in Chignal Smealey has also been damaged.

**HIGHWAYS** – a complaint was made about a large pothole in Chignal Road and the location will be reported to the Highways Department. The fingerpost at Beadles Hall Corner is still to be repaired and the broken post at Langleys Corner has been reported.

**FOOTPATHS/BRIDLEWAYS** – it was reported that the footpath near Brickbarns Cottage is to be redirected. The first footpath walk of the year was arranged for 10 a.m. on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February, starting at the Green.

**TREE WARDEN** – there are now only two black poplar trees remaining. The landowner of the tree covered in ivy on the bend to Chignal St. James will be contacted regarding its safety.

**VILLAGE ORCHARD** – the first sub-committee has taken place to discuss progress. The first draft of the Management Plan has been completed and it is hoped that the lease will be completed shortly so that planting can begin in February. The contractor has revised his quote to fit requirements and it was agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to sign any necessary documentation.

## PLANNING

**Howletts Hall** – removal and replacement of 2 dormer windows etc. – the application was approved.

**LATE URGENT BUSINESS** – a complaint was made regarding horses being ridden on the Green and the City Council will be contacted for clarification on whether it is possible to stop the Green being used in this way.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – the next meeting will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.00 p.m. to be followed at 8 p.m. by the Annual Parish meeting



# In Memory of

---

## Gordon Lee 1924-2013

It is with great sadness to report the passing of Gordon, one of our oldest residents. Our condolences go out to his sons Martin, Paul and their families.

Gordon, with Joyce, came to Chignal St. James nearly 50 years ago when they purchased the derelict property next to the "Three Elms". Here they built the bungalow that was to become their home for the rest of their lives.

Apart from his work at Marconi Marine and bringing up a family, Gordon's main hobby was motor-cycle trials. Trips around Essex to Trials plus visits to Somerset for the famous "Beggars Roost Trial" were all part of family life. Gordon's trophy cabinet was evidence that he was a very good rider.

It did not take long for Gordon to become involved in the Parish. In 1966, when an extraordinary meeting was called as the Village Hall was in danger of closing through lack of support, Gordon joined the Committee and remained an active member to the present day. Always on hand to help with the maintenance work and he will be well remembered for running the "Bowl for a Pig" at the Village Fete.

In 1968 he became a Parish Councilor, a position he held until now. Active again, monitoring the upkeep of the roads in the Parish and always to the front on the annual "Clean-Up" day.

Further involvement in Village activities saw him as a founder member of the Carpet Bowls Club and also a member of the Gardening Club. Gordon will be sadly missed but always remembered.

## Marian Joan Lambert June 1937- January 2013

The editor is saddened to report the passing of Marian Lambert, who lived in Chignal Smealey for over 45 years.

Despite poor health, Marian took an active interest in Village life, especially the Church. Marian was also a cat lover and would feed one of the ginger cats that seem to have "adopted" our part of the village.

Our condolences go to Michael and his family at this sad time.

# St. Nicholas' Church

---

## Greetings to you all from St Nicholas Church.

A very big thank you to all of you who helped decorate the church for Christmas .The church looked delightful, the candles giving it a real Christmas glow.

We were fortunate to have John,Bishop of Bradwell, to conduct our united carol service. At this service the church was presented with a Spurgeons Cross, crafted by Sandra Bailey's father, to mark the marriage of his grandson Paul to Laura. Those of you who were there, heard from the Bishop, his decision to collaborate the Chignals with Mashbury with the parish of Great Waltham with Ford End, this results us in sharing some of the 'new priest in charge' time. I am delighted to be able to tell you that Reverend Caroline Brown has been appointed and will be licensed by the Bishop on 3rd May 7.30pm at Great Waltham Church. Caroline along with her husband Terry will be moving into the vicarage at Great Waltham in the middle of April. It has come to my attention that we are required to revise and update the electoral roll. If you are a resident of the parish, over sixteen and have been baptised you are eligible to be on the roll. Forms are available from me. This enables you to elect and vote for new officers, in addition this gives the Church of England a guide line of local interest of parishioners. New members for the P.C.C. are urgently needed; please give this your attention.

There will be a special Mothering Sunday service March 10<sup>th</sup> 11am, a service for all ages. This service is very suitable for children and will be conducted by Dr. Diana Garfield PhD. Easter will be celebrated with a service of Holy Communion, to be conducted by Rev Mike Aston. Both Diana and Mike are known to many of you, please try to come to one or the other, or both services. Coffee will be served following Holy Communion on Easter Day.

On a much sadder note St Nicholas was the venue for the funerals of Councillor Gordon Lee and Marian Lambert. Gordon has faithfully served the local community, always present at church and village celebrations. He will be sadly missed. Marian attended and supported St Nicholas when able. She lived next door and reported any suspicious activity in and around the church. Our prayers are for their families and close friends.

We are looking forward to the spring and the celebration of Easter .We hope to see many of you at St Nicholas.

Best wishes Tony Towns (Church warden telephone no 01245 440241)

### Dates for your diary.

Mothering Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 11am Family worship

Easter Day 31<sup>st</sup> March 11am Holy Communion.

Decorating the church for Easter Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 10am



**Editor:Linda Nelson  
Ivy Cottage  
Chignal Smealey  
CM1 4TA**

**Tel: 01245 442625  
Fax: 01245 442952**

**Email: [chignalswe@btinternet.com](mailto:chignalswe@btinternet.com) Web:[www.essexinfo.net/thechignals](http://www.essexinfo.net/thechignals)**

**Articles to the editor by 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 for next publication on 29<sup>th</sup>April 2013**