

No. 164 March
2014



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

Chignal News



The Carol Crawl; on Wednesday 18th December, was held at both the Three Elms and the Pig and Whistle. The photo above was taken at the Three Elms.



The Pig and Whistle at Chignal Smealey have donated £1000.00 to Farleigh Hospice.

Hospice receptionist Julia Green thanked proprietors Brian and Brendan and the quiz teams for their generosity in raising this amount over the last six months. (Photo Left)



Photo above of a flower arranging workshop in the Village Hall presented by Diana Barnes. The day commenced at 10am with Diana demonstrating three different arrangement styles. The same flowers and materials were provided for everyone and it was wonderful to see so many beautiful arrangements when we finished at 4pm. (Joan Smith)



Five pairs from the Bowls Club travelled to Potters Leisure Resort, Norfolk on 31st January to take part in the 2014 Essex Pairs Carpet Bowls weekend tournament. All five pairs played five enjoyable matches, three on the Saturday and two on Sunday morning. The standard was very high and I am pleased to say that Gordon Hillyear and Kathleen Huggett qualified to play in then last sixteen but were, unfortunately, knocked out in the quarter finals. (Photo left)

(Sharon Manning)

Women's Institute

In December we had a very enjoyable meeting with the help of Rosemary Carter who is a very accomplished accordion player. We were able to join in many of the songs and tunes, and finished the meeting with a Christmas Tea.

Our speaker for January was Mr. Tim Sheppard who gave us a very interesting talk on the work of the Royal National Institute for Lifeboats with some excellent films of the Lifeboats and even some rescues. We were told that Southend Lifeboat Station is one of the busiest in the Country.

In February we have Mrs. Lorraine Ely who will sing songs from the shows she has appeared in. We continue to support the Food Bank, the U.K.Aid with our knit and natter group, and meet for Art on the fourth Thursday of the month. As usual our meetings are held in the Village Hall on the first Thursday at 2pm for 2.30pm, visitors are always welcome.

Details phone Janet on 440223 or Myra on 440659.

Dates For Your Diary

VILLAGE HALL SPRING CLEAN

There will be a spring cleaning day at the village hall on

Friday March 21st, from 10.am

If you are able to help for a couple of hours with things like window cleaning etc we would be delighted to see you. Cleaning materials etc will be provided.

For further information telephone the secretary on 01245 441241

VILLAGE HALL QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 29th March at 7.30pm

£5 entrance includes a Ploughman's Supper

Teams of 6; Please bring your own drinks

All proceeds to village hall funds

For further information telephone the secretary on 01245 441241

Bowls Club

The Club Fish and Chip Supper was held on 13th December. The evening began with the competition for the Shield, which was won by Martyn Towns and Roy Smith. After this we sat down at a beautifully decorated table for Fish and Chips, a multitude of puddings followed by the Christmas Raffle, the first prize being the magnificent Hamper, prepared by Kathleen, and won by Marian. All Club Members and guests then won a raffle prize, all organised so well by Sheila and Yvonne. The evening closed with the usual singing of carols, making this a very enjoyable evening.

The Club has done well in the West Area Competition, reaching the semi-final which we play at home against Stisted in February. A number of Friendly Matches have been organised for the coming year, and on the social calendar, we have our Puddings Evening on February 13th. Some of our members are spending a week-end at Potters, playing a lot of bowls, meeting other clubs in the area no doubt it will be a very enjoyable week-end.

Tour de France 2014 by David Fincham

There's a laid back atmosphere of anticipation. The sun baked country road is lined with motorhomes, their occupants sipping wine at tables adorned with bright coloured sun brollies. Cars parked randomly on the verge spill out families with picnics and lots of cold drinks. Odd cyclists in smart racing gear speed past to the sound of a few cheers, but not many notice them. Then, in the distance, the strains of music are heard – the "Caravan" is coming. The crowd casually take their places at the edge of the road as the first of the carnival type vehicles approach. Laughing beauties throw freebies, sweets, chocolate bars, cold drinks, Tour baseball caps, and some rather strange mini sun shades on head bands that everyone laughingly put on. This lasts for about an hour but then it is quiet and the caravan is over. Far in the distance the rumbling of a helicopter can be heard, motorbikes, and then cheering crowds ahead up the road. The police escort flies past, followed by the mass of brightly coloured riders, heads down and pumping. We all yell allez – allez and, in a flash, they have gone. The roads are then reopened and it's back to the picnics and wine.

This is in France, but in July the Tour de France is coming to England.

The race starts on the 5th July in Leeds, on the next day from York, and then from Cambridge on the 7th, passing through Saffron Walden, Finchingfield and Felsted, and then Great Waltham, along Breeds Road into Chignal Smealy, turning left at the Pig and Whistle into Chignal Road and then on to Roxwell Road, Fyfield and Epping, finishing in London. The following day the Tour crosses the channel for the next stage, which starts at Le Touquet.

This year the Tour will be made up of 21 stages, covering a total distance of 3656 kilometres (2272 miles) and, as well as France and England, it will go into Belgium and Spain before the traditional finish along the Champs-Élysées in Paris. There will be about 200 entrants, with prize money probably similar to last year when it approached £400,000 for the winner. Our stage will be one of the shorter ones at 159 kilometres – the longest is 237 (147 miles)

The first Tour took place in 1903, when it was said that the ideal race would be one in which only one rider finished. This came near to happening in 1926 when 76 riders began the 10th stage at midnight and 17 hours later the stage winner crossed the line. After 18 hours only 10 riders had finished – a search party was sent out for the rest and they were brought back in buses. This was generally regarded as being the toughest Tour ever.

In the early years the riders had very little outside assistance and to change gear the riders had to stop and take off the back wheel. Now the riders are part of a team which has support cars, nutritionists,

trainers, physiotherapists, mechanics, managers, a team doctor and others. Each rider has four bikes, two for the road and two for time trials when the riders ride individually against the clock. Each bike costs about £10,000. Pre-race testing is carried out in wind tunnels to find the best aerodynamic position for the mountain downhill sections where speeds of 60mph are achieved. To take part the riders have to be supremely fit, and brave.

The Tour de France is the largest single sporting event in the world, with a TV audience of 3.5 billion people in 180 countries. Most of the route is lined with densely packed spectators in a high state of excitement, many of whom will have arrived the night before in order to obtain a good viewing point. The roads are closed about three hours before the race is due to pass. There are cyclists everywhere, many travelling in coaches with trailers in tow to carry the bikes, following the route from day to day.

We cannot expect the caravan to be as large or spectacular when the Tour comes to this country as many of the advertised products are not readily available here, but it will still be well worth watching. Britain had never had much success in the Tour. A few riders such as Chris Boardman and Sean Yates had won stages but then Sky decided to sponsor British cycling and, with their financial input, a much more scientific training and preparation programme was put in place resulting in our successes at the Olympic Games and Bradley Wiggins winning the Tour in 2012, with Chris Froome second, and then Chris Froome winning last year.

Over the next few months we can expect to see many more cyclists and their support teams on our local roads as they closely inspect the route, noting any particular hazards and deciding upon their best strategy.

There will probably be about twenty two teams taking part and each team will decide in advance which team member has the best chance of winning. The remaining team members are then expected to support the team leader to the best of their ability. This often leads to frustration if any particular rider on any day thinks he stands a better chance of a stage win than the team leader, but they are paid to provide support and this is what they must do. Crashes are frequent and can often disrupt the pre-planned strategy.

The winner is the rider who completes the twenty one stages in the lowest overall time and the leader at the beginning of each stage wears the yellow jersey to make him easily distinguishable.

200 competitors squeezed into our narrow roads will, in itself, be quite a spectacle – I only hope that the potholes are filled well in advance.

Wine Discovery Group

As was seen in the photographs on the front cover of the last issue of the Chignal News, 2013 was finished off for our members, with our annual Christmas Meal. The event is always well attended and this year was no exception. Our Chairman's lovely wife Joan along with Norman's help made a splendid job of transforming the Village Hall into the perfect venue. The overall look was sumptuous and inviting and on arriving, was a perfect start to a wonderful evening of fine food and of course as you would expect, excellent wines in friendly company.

We started 2014 off with a Chairman's Choice evening. Norman had decided to choose six wines at about the same sort of price group so we could compare and contrast them for the best value and flavour. It was a premium evening so the price paid per bottle was around £20.

The wines we tasted for the evening were as follows:

Domaines Schlumber Grand Cru. 2006. 13%vol – This is made from 100% Pinot Gris grape in the Alsace region. More than 90% of the total Alsace wines produced are white wines. This particular white comes from the Kessler vineyard which is an Alsace Grand Cru vineyard in the village of Guebwiller. Interestingly this particular family own 4 of the Alsace's Grand Cru vineyards out of the total of 51 specially designated vineyards. Wines made from the grapes grown under the Grand Cru banner are grown to particularly strict standards, both in terms of yield and quality, making it potentially, a good group of wines to try. More than 90% of the total Alsace wines production is white wines.

Sancerre Vacheron Blanc. 2011. 12.5 % vol – is made from 100% Sauvignon Blanc grape. Sancerre is one of the Loire Valley wine region's most easterly appellations and generally thought of as one of its most prestigious. Sancerre is actually in the area unofficial named the Upper Loire, the name given to the eastern end of the main Loire Valley wine region of France.

Verget Pouilly-Fuisse. 2010. 13%vol – is made from 100% Chardonnay Grape. Chardonnay is the world's most famous white-wine grape and also one of the most widely planted. The most highly regarded growers of the variety are those from Burgundy, which is where this wine is produced. This particular wine is one of the finest white wines of the Maconnais region, which is in southern Burgundy.

Pecchenino Bricco botti superior. 2010. 14.5 %vol – This wine is made from 100% Dolcetto grape, which is a dark-skinned wine grape from the Monferrato hills of north-western Italy, not far over the border from France. The wines produced by this grape are nearly always quite dry and this was no exception.

Ventolera Pinot Noir. 2010. 14.5 %vol – This is made from 100% Pinot Noir Grape. Ventolera Pinot Noir is made from grapes grown in Chile's cool climate Leyda Valley, which is dominated by fog and strong sea winds. It is known to be deep, earthy and structured, with ripe, spicy cherry aromas and an intense, complex mix of red fruits and violets on a full yet velvety palate.

Kuru Kuru Pinot Noir. 2008. 14%vol – This wine is again made from 100% Pinot Noir Grape. This time the wine is produced in Central Otago, New Zealand. The philosophy of Kuru Kuru wines is to produce the best examples of NZ wines in the regions which best showcase each variety. It's dark black cherry in colour with a smoky berry-fruit and leather nose, dark cherry and black berries on the palate with beautifully integrated tannins, with oak textures. This wine is now 5 years of age and should be at its best up until around 2015.

All the wines we tasted over the evening received mixed reviews from our members, but none were thought to be outstanding for the price.

Terri Waller

Tackling Rural Crime

To help address concerns in the parish about the recent steep increase in criminal activity that has affected our homes, farms and other businesses, the parish council has invited Essex Police to attend our **Annual Parish meeting on Monday 10th March at 8pm** in the village hall. We have had a positive response from the District Commander and the local Crime Prevention Officer so please come along and use this opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions for improving our security.

Beating the Criminals

Do you receive Neighbourhood Watch emails from our local cascade scheme? If not, why not? Unfortunately, we have seen a rise in theft crime locally over the last few months. A recent trend has been in high-spec off-road vehicles, garden and farm machinery and equipment, although ripping out the cash box for egg-sale money is not beneath the thieves.

So please, please, please help yourself by staying in touch with crime trends and up to date advice on how to beat the burglars.

To get regular updates on crime and crime prevention from the Police, just get in touch with:

In the Chignals -

Your local Parish Councillor or contact Lynn Ballard lynn_ballard@btinternet.com

In Mashbury -

Moira Tarrant m.tarrant@virgin.net

And thank you to everyone who looks out for suspicious activity or behaviour and gives details to the Police crime reporting telephone no. 101

It's coming to Chignal!

Le Tour de France, Stage 3 Cambridge to London, Monday 7th July 2014

As most of you may be aware our parish will be on the route of the Tour de France at the beginning of July. The promotional Caravanne, the cyclists and their support vehicles will travel from Great Waltham past the 'Pig & Whistle' and then south along the full length of Chignal Road en route to Roxwell. Arrangements are still being finalised by the County and City Council for managing the impact of the Tour de France on the communities along the route and a series of events are being developed on the back of it for local people and tourists.

What we do know at this early stage is that the Caravanne Publicitaire will comprise some 230 vehicles that will take about an hour to pass through. This is expected to start in Chignal Road at 12.04. The timings for the race itself are between 13.43 and 14.10 depending on the cycling speed. Support vehicles will follow them.

Importantly, there will be road closures that day from approximately 8am – 5pm with significant disruption for traffic well beyond the route. Only emergency vehicles will be allowed to cross the route during this time.

The parish council has been invited to attend a series of City Council briefings on the Tour de France as we get nearer to the event and businesses and other local organisations that will be affected will also be welcome to participate in these meetings.

Various people in our parish are already planning to organise events and activities related to the Tour de France. If you are interested to find out more, please come along to the next Parish Council meeting at 7pm on Monday 10th March and the Annual Parish Meeting which follows at 8pm.

Chignal Parish Council

Present at the meeting held on Monday 13 January 2014 were Cllrs, Ballard (Chair), Nelson (Vice-Chair) Jenkins, Towns, Feltwell Philpot, Middleditch. In Attendance were Cllr. John Aldridge Essex County Council, Cllr. Nicolette Chambers Chelmsford City Council, The Parish Clerk and 12 Parishioners

PUBLIC FORUM

- Concerns were raised regarding the continued erosion of the grass verges near to Pieces Cottage. The damage was compounded by vehicles parking on the verges during the continued very wet weather and large lorries parking and unloading at the side of the road. Cllr Aldridge explained that it was deemed custom and practice for residents of rural villages to park on the verges, for this reason would be difficult to enforce a 'blanket' no parking rule.
- Flooding due to blocked ditches/ gully between Pieces Cottage and the Three Elms Public House was reported. Relevant landowners would be contacted.
- A number of pot holes were reported. A resident had claimed compensation for damage to their vehicle at the worst of these, which was situated on a blind bend near to Pieces Cottage. Cllr Aldridge agreed to take up the matter to see if urgent repairs could be undertaken.
- A resident reported that there was dog mess on the bridleway from the Green to Pengy Mill. A request for a dog bin on the Green would be forwarded to the City Council.
- Members agreed that the poor state of the road and the erosion of the verges near to Pieces Cottage remained a frustration.
- The missing manhole cover reported at the last meeting had been replaced and most gullies had now been cleared by ECC. A note of thanks was given to Cllr Aldridge for his assistance in both matters.

COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- **Cllr Chambers** gave details of her surgery dates for early 2013 and updated the meeting regarding the completion of the Hylands House Project.
- Cllr Chamber's ward surgery for Pleshey and Roxwell was to be held on the March 1st, her surgery for Chignal was yet to be arranged.
- Cllr Chambers explained the role of the CCC Community Services Team which provided a wealth of useful information and advice to communities. It was agreed that the Team be contacted to arrange and invitation to a Coffee Morning held in the Chignal Parish Hall
- **Cllr Aldridge** informed the meeting that the Highways Department were tasked to ensure that the official route of the Tour de France road surfaces were in good condition. Cllr Aldridge reminded everyone that roads were likely to be closed for significant time before and after the event passes through the local area. Official notices would be posted. Residents would need to plan their journeys accordingly. There was a need for supervisors for public safety purposes, volunteers were being sought.

MEMBERS GAVE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

- **Playing Fields**
The two large branches that fallen onto the Playing Field had now been cleared away. Due to the recent continued wet weather the gateways had become very muddy, placement of hard core was required.
- **Newsletter Including Website**
The next newsletter was scheduled for the mid to end of February. The Church information on the website needed to be updated.
- **Gravel Liaison**
Lafarge were on target for the landfill completion date in April 2014. The Hydrologist inspection was ongoing, drainage information was awaited.

Chignal Parish Council Continued

➤ **Village Watch**

Cllr Chris Philpot advised that thefts in rural areas were at their highest level for 10/15 years. Residents were urged to call 101 to report anything suspicious.

➤ **Highways**

A drain beside Beadle Cross and Dyers hall was blocked.

➤ **Footpaths/Bridleways**

As a result of the recent continued wet weather the Bridleway had not been used this had resulted in better drainage. There was still a risk that a few trees might come down.

Concerns were raised that there appeared to be no plans for public footpaths or a bridleway shown on the proposed development plans at Copperfield Road.

➤ **Telephone Box Chignal St. James**

Work continues on the list of jobs to do to make the telephone box into a community information station.

➤ **Tree Warden**

Controls on imports of sweet chestnuts and planes are now in place to curb the spread of disease.

➤ **Village Orchard**

It was the anniversary of undertaking the Orchard lease. Much work had been done and many events had been undertaken during this time. A full report giving details of would be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council in March. A note of thanks was a given to all those that had been involved. An article for the CCC Parish Life publication, covering the very successful wassailing event held on 4 January had been drafted.

A note of thanks was given to Good Easter Molly Gang for their help in making it such a successful Occasion despite the dreadful weather. A Public Orchard meeting was being arranged for May.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING

➤ **Planning Applications**

Two new planning applications were considered: the Parish Council raised no objection to either application provided the developments met the requirements of the Village Design Statement. However the Parish Council queried the position of the boundary marking on the east side of the site, (marked in blue) on the plans supplied for the Pieces Cottage proposal.

➤ **Village Clean Up Day**

It was agreed that Saturday 22nd March 2014 would be the Parish Clean Up Day. The usual arrangements would be made.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Those present were reminded that the next Parish Council meeting would be held at 7.0 pm on Monday 10th March 2014; this would be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.0pm. Local community groups and clubs would be invited to send a report on their events and activities.

Village Clean-up
9 a.m.
22nd March 2014
Meet at the
Village Hall or
Woodhall House



Travel with Caution

Following the wettest January on record, further rainfall is predicted for many weeks to come and with fields unable to absorb more water there may be considerable run-off on to many highways. The County Council has issued the following advice to those using the roads at this time. Before travelling check for road and rail updates as there may be disruption and extended journey times may be experienced. Information on highways in Essex is available at www.essex.gov.uk/highways and on Twitter at [@Essex_Travel](https://twitter.com/Essex_Travel). If you encounter standing water drive with care and slow down, particularly as the wash from vehicles travelling through water can flood adjacent properties or cause other vehicles to stall. Where there is water on the highway such as a ford, this could be exceptionally deep and should be avoided. If you are in an area where flooding has happened in the past, keep abreast of the current weather forecasts in your area and log on to the website www.metoffice.gov.uk

You may also check the Environment Agency's website to see if you are in a location which is at risk from flooding at www.environment-agency.gov.uk. If there is a watercourse, trash grill or piped channel near you and it is safe to do so, check that this is clear of debris or obstruction. It is a landowner's responsibility to keep watercourses free-flowing, unless known otherwise. **DO NOT** approach unsafe structures or fast flowing water, even to clear blockages.

Contact details for agencies that provide 24 hour advice and general guidance on flood issues can be found at on the Essex County Council webpage www.essex.gov.uk/flooding.

News of the latest flood warnings can be heard on the Free Floodline **0845 988 1188**

Essex County Council supports Citizens Advice Bureaux

Residents in need of help to tackle problems such as personal debt will get more support with funding being provided to 12 Citizens Advice Bureaux by Essex County Council. The Council will give a £123,000 grant each year for up to three years subject to annual review. The total will be divided between the 12 bureaux across the County according to need.

CAB services provide residents with free, independent and impartial advice on a wide range of topics including welfare benefits, housing and employment, along with debt and budgeting advice. I believe that the CABs provide impartial and expert information to people coping with difficult situations and contribute to improving life chances for all our residents across the County. Last year CABs dealt with more than 160,600 issues across the County.

Tour de France 2014

Don't forget that this year's Tour comes right through the heart of many of our villages on 7th July. The route enters Essex north of Saffron Walden through Felsted, Great Waltham, Fanners Green, Chignal St James, then via the A1060 through Roxwell and out to Blackmore on its way to Epping en route to London. For more information on the Tour de France 2014's route through Essex visit www.essex.gov.uk/Pages/Tour-de-France.aspx.

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

John Aldridge CC – March 2014

North Melbourne Library

Just a quick reminder that your local Library is open Tuesday, Friday and Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Visit www.essex.gov.uk/libraries for any information.

North Melbourne Library has a wide range of books to loan, DVD's, spoken word, reference titles, photocopier and FAX service. Connect to the Internet on our 3 Public Network computers or use our Wi-fi enabling you to connect with your own laptop or smart phone.

For our younger customers we deliver a Rhyme Time on a Friday Morning 11:00 -11:30 for all 5's and unders and their carers. Come along and join in with popular rhymes, songs and stories.

We have two book groups that meet in the library; one on the first Friday of the month 9:30 – 10:00 and the other on the last Friday of the month 2:00-2:30. Come along and discover new authors and a wide variety of books which you then discuss at the next meeting. New members always welcome. Or alternatively get together with friends/colleagues and create your own book club – it's really easy, come into the library and our friendly staff will talk you through the process and order multiple copies of your chosen title.

Summer Reading Challenge Volunteers

Essex and Southend Libraries are looking for volunteers aged 14 and above to help children keep reading in the summer holidays. Have fun and gain new skills, great for your CV.

We are looking for volunteers who can commit to a minimum of 15 hours from Saturday 19th July to Monday 1st September 2013.

As a volunteer you will help library staff:

- Join children to the Summer Reading Challenge.
- Talk to children (mainly aged 4-11) about their books.
- Hand out stickers and rewards.

For more information and volunteer applications please see our website:

www.essex.gov.uk/libraries or call in at any Essex Library.

Contributed by Viv Wortley

Letters

WORLD CHALLENGE EXPEDITION TO SOUTHERN TANZANIA

I am one of 18 students at Chelmer Valley High School recently selected to take part in the World Challenge expedition to Southern Tanzania in July 2015.

I will be away for 2 weeks with the majority of the time spent working on a community based project to substantially improve the lives of the local inhabitants whom I will be living amongst during my time away.

I am really looking forward to taking part in the expedition – I think it will be a great experience whilst also making a difference to the local community. As part of the World Challenge I have to complete a lot of fundraising to help fund the expedition and pay for essential supplies. If anyone has anything they would like me to do (gardening or other jobs) over the Easter holiday period then please contact me on 01245 442474.

Thank you very much.
Owen Thomas

St. Nicholas' Church

How exciting that the Tour De France is coming through our village on Monday 7th July!
What better way than to share this unique spectacle with friends and family AND raise money for St Nicholas church at the same time to put towards their building project .
Any profit from our efforts will go to this worthwhile fund.

Helen Towns is organising tea/coffee facilities at the roadside nearest to Grays Lodge Cottages before the event passes, which we hope you will support on the day.

We are then proposing a hog roast at the village hall after the event – around 2.30 pm.
Ticket prices are £12.50 per person, £5 for children, to include hog roast bap and strawberries/cheese board. A vegetarian quiche option would be possible if known in advance.
You would need to bring your own drinks and glasses.

As we are restricted by numbers at the village hall, tickets are limited and will be sold on first come, first served basis. So.... get your order in quick by getting in touch with Sandra Bailey on 01245 445245 or 07909564905 or by email to sandbail57@hotmail.com. Payment will be required to secure your ticket.

If you can offer help , or have any ideas for the day, we would love to hear from you.
(there will be road closures in and around the village, so family and friends coming from afar will need to plan their journey carefully.)



Services

16th March Joint service with Ford End at 9.30 am and Great Waltham at 11 am.
23rd March 11 am Communion at St Nicholas'

Editor:Linda Nelson
Ivy Cottage
Chignal Smealey
CM1 4TA
Tel: 01245 442625
Fax: 01245 442952

Email: chignalswe@btinternet.com Web:
www.essexinfo.net/thechignals

Articles to the editor by 7th April 2014 for next
publication around 3rd May 2014

Lost a Budgie?

Found a nice little Budgie
Happy and safe at Stevens
farm stables offices

Call Mark on 01245 441155
if you may be the owner