



Wassailing - Saturday 3rd January

Despite the rainy weather, many of you were not put off and came out to enjoy what we hope you thought was a jolly good time!

Enormous thanks are due to the Molly men who entertained us with dance, shouts and music. Through them we were able to witness old village traditions as well as learning an energetic dance!

Many thanks must also go to Norman Smith who compered from start to finish. The evening flowed smoothly and before we knew it we had welcomed in the new year, fed the trees with Apple juice and hung toast out on the trees as well.

With all the music and singing we hope that we have encouraged healthy growth to the trees in 2015!

Looking forward to seeing you at your Orchard in 2015

Sandra and the Orchard Committee



Gardening Club

On a cold January evening we had a very good turn-out for a delightful presentation from Maïke Windhorst on garden plants that could be used throughout the year to create colourful flower arrangements. Month by month, there were imaginative ideas for using a wide variety of stems, leaves, flowers, berries and seed heads in small posies, table arrangements and wreaths. Lots of inspiration for adding new plants to our gardens and re-appraising the floristry potential of what we already grow.

Our speaker in February was Sherie Plumb, a national and international award winning potato grower. Sherie shared the secrets of her success with a very detailed presentation that demonstrated her extensive knowledge and experience of cultivating this kitchen staple. Coming up on **Wednesday 11th March 7.30 pm**, at the village hall, (please note that the date of this talk has changed) Mike Abel will speak to us about his approach vegetable growing.

Our AGM on **Wednesday 15th April, 7.30pm** is a fun social evening with a gardening related quiz. In the summer we have a full programme of evening garden visits which guests are also very welcome to attend.

Thursday 21st May, 7pm. "Ulting Wick", Crouchmans Farm Road, Maldon

Thursday 18th June, 7pm. "Washlands", Prayers Hill, Sible Hedingham,

Thursday 25th June, 7pm. Tour of Kings Seeds, Monks Farm, Coggeshall Road, Kelvedon, Colchester

Tuesday 21st July, 7pm."Snares Hill Cottage", Duck End, Stebbing

Following our enjoyable club trip to Capel Manor Gardens with Fourways Coaches last July, we are also planning a day out to Helmingham Hall and Otley Hall gardens in Suffolk on **Thursday 30th July**. More details of how to book for this trip in the May edition of 'Chignal News'.

We're a very friendly club where you don't need to be an expert to enjoy the varied talks, demonstrations and visits. For more information, *please contact Graham Andrews (Chairman) on 01245 442625 or Lynn Ballard (Secretary) on 01245 440880, email: gardening.chignalsmashbury@gmail.com*

Women's Institute

In January we had a most enlightening talk on the history of Save the Children , which came into being nearly 100 years ago when a lady named Eglantyne Jebb campaigned on behalf of starving children in Germany after the Great War. Save the Children is now represented in 120 countries, and her legacy lives on through helping millions of children across the world.

Our February meeting is 'Tripe and Trotters' by Mr. Brian Carline, and on March 5th we have a talk on 'Thames Sailing Barges' by Mr. David Gibson. Visitors welcome, 2 pm for 2.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Many Thanks. Janet Campen

Bowl's Club

In our first year playing in the league after eight games played, we have drawn four, lost two and won two, with six more games to play. A very good result for our start in the league.

In the West Area Shield competition we reached the semi finals playing Stock away but lost that match.

Three club members entered the Essex Singles at Braintree. John Manning won all three of his matches, and goes on to the next round.

A group from the club are going to play at Potters with other Essex Teams for a weekend at the end of January. Our Friendly Matches begin in April with a game against Great Waltham.

At Christmas, we held our Fish & Chip supper. The evening started with the pairs competition for the Xmas Shield, the winners being Kathleen and Geoff with Sheila and Bill runners up

Fish and Chips were much enjoyed which were followed by a variety of puddings made by members.

After this the Raffle organised beautifully by Sheila and the lovely Hamper produced by Kathleen was drawn.

The Hamper was won by John with everyone getting a raffle prize.

Singing of Carols followed ending a very enjoyable evening.

Our next social occasion is our Puddings Evening on Valentines Day. Geoff Coates

Button's the Bear

Whilst walking on a crisp winters morning before Christmas, we found a very bedraggled bear lying in the middle of the road near the United Reformed Church in Mashbury road.

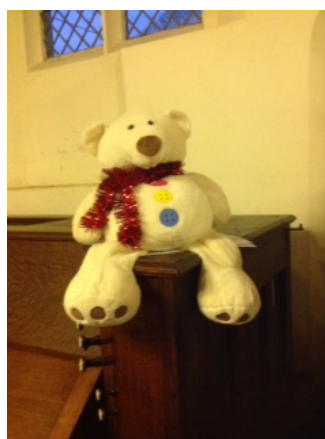
We left him on the kerbside in the hope that he would be reunited with his owner, but was still there the next day!

He made the journey home with me, underwent and extensive wash and tumble dry and enjoyed the warmth of home.

Buttons (his name is on his paw) then spent the Christmas season at St. Nicholas Church, enjoying the carols and services there. he also made an appearance at the Wassailing event.

Now back at home, he is still unclaimed and is looking forward to summer up at the Orchard.

However, if you know someone who has lost Buttons, please get in touch with me - Sandra on 07909 564905.



Dates for your Diary

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 21st March 2015

7.30pm at the village hall

£6 entry includes traditional Ploughman's Supper

Please BYOB, glasses & cutlery.

Prizes for the raffle would be welcome

A Whist Drive will be held at the Village Hall on:

Friday 27th March

All start at 7.30 pm. £2.50 entry includes light refreshments.

Prizes for the raffles would be welcome

All profits to village hall maintenance & refurbishment funds

ADVANCE NOTICE - a date for the diary.

There will be a concert in St. Nicholas Church on 14th June. It will be performed by The Nightingale Ensemble a group of professional musicians. Refreshments will be available - details soon.

Scarecrows

This summer it's hoped to populate Chignal Smealey, Mashbury and Chignal St James with some interesting new residents for two weeks, from Saturday 30th May until Sunday 14th June. They will be staying in front gardens where they will be posing as all manner of celebrities, historical figures, sports personalities or just plain ordinary folk, and will be helping to raise money for village hall funds. You've guessed it, they're scarecrows. Scarecrow competitions are increasingly popular so the fete committee hopes that lots of you will put together an entry after seeing how much fun it is in other villages. There is no set theme so let your imaginations run wild. Entries will be judged by public vote during the afternoon of the fete by way of a photo gallery, although most residents will probably have seen them all in the flesh (or should that be straw?) before that anyway. We would love all of you to be able to participate so please feel free to install abseiling teddy bears on the front of your house or make a flock of scary crows out of black bin bags if you can't manage a full scale scarecrow. The only limit is your imagination. If you're having a creative block there are lots of scarecrow images online to inspire you, or think about topical issues for inspiration like the election, a new royal baby, the anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta, and so on.

The boring bit is that there are a few rules, particularly about making sure you've got adequate insurance in case of damage or accidents to third parties, but they are all on the leaflet that will be dropping through your letterbox soon, if it hasn't already, or go to

<http://www.essexinfo.net/thechignals/assets/documents/scarecrow-competition>

There'll be a £3 fee per entry and it'll cost 10p per vote at the fete, all of which goes towards the running costs and maintenance of the village hall. The hall is an independent charity managed entirely by volunteers who organise events to raise funds for its upkeep. Our thanks to the Diary & Events Liaison Group whose representatives are helping with this event.

Dates for your Diary



'Time for a Cuppa' Coffee Morning in aid of Dementia UK Friday 6th March

A coffee morning is being held on Friday 6th March in the village hall 10am - 12.30pm.
Please come along for a tea/coffee cake and chat whilst supporting Dementia UK.

If you are able to bake a cake for a cake raffle please let me know or just bring one along. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate to Dementia UK or require transport to get along then please also get in touch.

Hope to see you on the 6th!
Thank you
Gill Thomas 01245 442474



Interested in Playing Chess?

We are holding a chess evening at The Three Elms on Thursday 19th March with a view to making it a monthly event if there is enough interest. If you would like to come along, we will be playing from 7.30pm onwards, just turn up when you can. Hopefully we will have a number of players, many of whom will not have played for a while, so the evening should suit all standards.

We are keen to appeal to as many people as possible, if you're not sure just pop in for a drink and play if you'd like. If you are interested but can't make the 19th then please let us know.

Do call if you would like any further information and many thanks to The Three Elms for offering to host the evening.

We hope to see you there!
Dave and Gill Thomas
01245 442474

Dates for your Diary

The Future of Chignal: have your say!

What is special about Chignal?

What are the problems?

What ideas do you have for improvements?

Turn ideas into action through a Parish Plan

The Rural Community Council of Essex will lead an informal morning workshop session to kick-start the Parish Plan on **Saturday 14th March, from 10.00 – 12.15 in the village hall, Chignal St James**. Refreshments will be provided.

You'll be able to find out more about how you can participate in creating the Parish Plan and meet your friends and neighbours in the process. **Residents from Mashbury would also be very welcome to join us.**

If you have any questions, please give Lynn Ballard a call on 01245 440880 or email: lynn_ballard@btinternet.com

Wine Discovery - January 2015

In December we enjoyed our Christmas meal – the atmosphere was festive – the hall was decked out beautifully for Christmas, the food was delicious, the wine plentiful and the company great. Thank you to all those who contributed to the evening and ensured it was such a success.

In January we enjoyed a blind tasting researched and presented by Chairman Norman. Another enjoyable evening that tested our wine knowledge and threw up some interesting reactions - most were surprised to find out the wines had all been purchased from either Aldi or Lidl and some were considerably cheaper than anticipated considering the quality of the wine. The evening finished off with lively conversation and a delicious cheeseboard provided by Andrea and Roland.

If you would like more information on, or wish to join the wine club please contact Dave Thomas on 01245 442474.



Mashbury Community Governance Review

For the last few months, people living in Mashbury have been discussing how their community will be governed in the future. Following receipt of a petition from over 50 Mashbury electors requesting a review of governance arrangements with a view to amalgamating with Chignal Parish, the City Council has put forward seven options for public consultation. The aim of this review is to ensure that governance within the Mashbury area reflects the identity and interests of that community and is effective and convenient.

Chignal Parish Council has already indicated that it would welcome an amalgamation with Mashbury as there are many historic, social and economic links between our two communities and several shared amenities. Mashbury residents already enjoy the benefits of using the village hall and the community orchard in Chignal St James and receiving 'Chignal News'. Together the two areas form the Parish of the Church of St Nicholas in Chignal Smealy. Several Mashbury residents are active supporters of clubs and societies, most of which meet in the village hall and participate in events such as the monthly coffee mornings held there and in the United Reform Church, the Fête and other events organised in Chignal.

Chignal Parish Council will consider its formal response to the public consultation on the Mashbury Community Governance Review at its meeting on 9th March when Chignal residents will be able to give their views on the options during public question time.

By way of background, particularly for our Mashbury readers, here are some of the things that a parish council does for its community.

A parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. It is the level of government closest to the community. As it is the authority closest to the people, parish councils are invariably the first place people will go with concerns or ideas. For this reason they are a vital part of any community.

Chignal Parish Council meets every two months and considers planning applications and any other matters referred to it by local residents, Chelmsford City Council, Essex County Council and by central government. Parish Council meetings are open to the public and there is an opportunity at the start of the meeting when members of the public can raise concerns and ask questions. There is also an annual meeting, (next one is on 9th March) to which all parishioners are invited to attend and local clubs and groups, (many involving Mashbury residents) report on their activities. All meetings are advertised on the parish council notice boards. Residents can bring to the attention of the parish council anything that concerns them, either directly or through the clerk, Mrs Janet Mills. If matters raised are not the responsibility of the council, the clerk can bring them to the attention of the proper authority. (continued on page 6)



WE'LL YOUR BOOKS PLEASE

Time to empty your bookshelves and make way for new. Book donations needed for our stand at the Village Fete on Saturday 6 June. Any fiction, non-fiction, adult and children's books, in good condition, gratefully accepted. Please drop off at Carolyn's (Wych Elm, 441406) or Lesley's (Saracens, 07801 099020) by the end of May. Many thanks.

Mashbury Community Governance Review Continued

The Parish Council has a wide range of powers related to local matters:

- Managing community amenities and services, such as the playing field, community orchard, notice boards, phone box, village website and newsletter, neighbourhood watch;
- Monitoring the performance of local public services, such as local bus services, public rights of way, roads, drainage, signposts, community policing, domestic refuse collection, litter picking, mobile library etc.
- Championing community interests and supporting local groups and village events;
- Liaising with local private businesses whose operations may impact on the parish, such as gravel extraction, waste disposal, telecommunications, power supply and agriculture;
- Supporting community led plans, such as the Chignal Villages Design Statement and the emerging Parish Plan;
- Securing external funding to support a wide range of community projects, such as the establishment of the community orchard and banners to welcome the 'Tour de France' and providing small grants to local organisations, for example, part funding of the recent tree work in St Nicholas churchyard.

The council also has the power to raise money through taxation, the precept, to cover the cost of: overheads such as insurance, employing a part-time Clerk, hiring meeting venues, printing; the management of community amenities and services such as the playing field, website and newsletter; and, offering small community grants. The precept is the parish council's share of the council tax. The precept demand goes to the billing authority, the district council, which collects the tax for the parish council.

As you can see from the above, parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Councillors are accountable to their electorate and can raise concerns on their behalf. There is another important way to influence what goes on in your area by participating in community-led planning such as a Parish Plan which is the subject of another article in this edition of 'Chignal News'. This is a unique opportunity for both Chignal and Mashbury residents to come together to identify issues and set priorities for future action.

Come along and see for yourself on Saturday 14th March, 10.00 – 12.15 at the village hall.

Puzzling

HI EVERYONE! GOOD NEWS!

We now have a "Community Jigsaw Puzzle Lending Library" for the residents of The Chignals with Mashbury, (mainly adult puzzles at the moment, however, it is hoped that a collection of children's puzzles may be got together if the adult library proves a success).

If you are looking for something to do to occupy your time and like doing jigsaw puzzles, then why not telephone to ask for a selection of puzzles to be brought to your house so that you may choose any that you may like to try. The puzzles may each be borrowed for 4 weeks, or longer if requested. There will be no charge for this.

If you are interested in this new venture, please telephone Barbara on 01245 440528 to request a visit. If we are unable to answer your call, please leave your name and telephone number and you will be called back as soon as possible.

Note: If anyone has any complete jigsaw puzzles they would like to donate to the library, they would be gratefully received. If you need them collected, please telephone Barbara on the above number. Some residents have already donated puzzles to Barbara enabling her to gather together a decent number for you to borrow.

Thank you so much.

Essex Energy Switch



In Essex this initiative has been hugely successful after attracting just shy of 9,000 households over the past 12 months, with an average saving of over £200 per household. Essex as a county has gained the highest collective sign-up across the UK. All tariffs being offered to residents through the Essex Energy Switch are bespoke and according to IChoosr UK (UK expert in collective energy switching) initial indications are that, based on average usage, these are the best deals obtainable anywhere in the UK. Although the latest auction has now closed if you need further information for the next visit:

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Pages/Energy-Switch.aspx>

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County Council Budget 2015/16

The proposed Essex County Council budget will freeze Council Tax for the fifth successive year. Some of the key elements of the budget include:

- Investing £131 million in the County's highways and transportation network.
- Investing £79 million to provide 3,000 additional primary school places in 2015/2016.
- Investing £32 million for transport services including local bus routes and community transport.
- Starting a five-year programme to develop flood defences.
- Ensuring there is superfast broadband for our communities and businesses.
- Supporting vulnerable people to live as independently as possible.

For more information on Council Tax visit:

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Your-Council/Council-Spending/council-tax/Pages/Council%20Tax.aspx>

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Testing begins at Basildon waste plant

Testing of equipment and processes has commenced at the Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant in Basildon, ahead of its official opening later this year. The plant will process household waste from across the County reducing the release of harmful greenhouse gases and be a major step towards the move away from sending our waste to landfill.

When opened, the local community and schools from all over Essex will be able to visit the Plant's Visitor Centre to learn about the importance of recycling in our communities. For more information visit:

<http://www.ubbessex.co.uk/residual-waste-treatment-facility-begins-commissioning-of-plant/>

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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 Mar - Apr 2015

Chignal Parish Council Meeting 12th January 2015

Present:

Cllr Miss Lynn Ballard (Chair)

Cllr Mr. Steve Middleditch

Cllr Malcolm Feltwell

Cllr Ms Linda Nelson (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Mr. Martyn Towns

In Attendance:

Cllr Nicolette Chambers, Chelmsford City Council

Cllr John Aldridge, Essex County Council

Mrs. Janet Mills (Parish Clerk) and 14

Parishioners

1. Apologies For Absence

Cllr Mr. Chris Philpot

Cllr Mr Andrew Jenkins

2. Register Of Declarations Of Interests

None

3. The Minutes Of The Meeting

10 November 2014

Were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising From The Minutes

a) Notice Boards.

Cllr Towns reported that a contractor had reviewed the 4 notice boards and had submitted a quote of £800.00 to put the boards in good order. Other contractors had been contacted but no other quotes had been received. Members agreed that other quotes were required before a decision could be made.

b) Governance of Mashbury

Mrs Moira Tarrant had been invited to update the meeting with the latest information. It was reported that a petition regarding the governance of Mashbury had been received by CCC. The first choice of voters in the petition was that Mashbury amalgamate with Chignal Parish Council. In accordance with regulations a three month consultation, period would begin on 12 January 2015. Each household would receive a letter setting out the process and the seven options available. The outcome of the consultation, to be implemented in April 2016, would be ratified by full Council of CCC in July 2015. Mrs Tarrant was thanked for the report. The matter would be included in the next Chignal News

Letter. Residents were asked to contact the Clerk with their views.

Heavy Lorry Movements

Great Waltham Parish Council had recently formally considered whether they should jointly investigate whether a weight restriction should be introduced on Breeds Road. Members agreed that they would not support a weight restriction application preferring to work closely with the lorry companies to solve issues as they arose.

d) Parish Plan

The PC was to work with the Rural Community Council (RCCE) for Essex to draw up the Parish Plan. The PC had recently been advised that Central Government was to withdraw funding for Community Councils. Cllr Linda Nelson raised and Cllr. Martyn Towns seconded a motion that The PC should support the RCCE by lobbying Central Government to continue to fund the organisation. With no objections the motion was carried.

Given the support already shown by local residents of Mashbury to join Chignal Parish, it was agreed that it would be appropriate to invite them to join Chignal residents to attend a workshop, facilitated by the RCCE to launch the preparation of the Parish Plan. Two meetings had already been held with representatives drawn from local clubs and groups to explore ways of co-ordinating events and activities in Chignal and Mashbury. Members of this events co-ordination group would also be invited to take part in producing the Parish Plan. It was not considered necessary to delay the plan preparation process until after the consultation on the Governance was completed. The RCCE would be asked to suggest some dates for an inaugural workshop and in the meantime local research to gather facts and figures and background work would be undertaken. The City Council would also be consulted about the Parish Plan.

Chignal Parish Council continued

e) Gardening Express

The PC had been contacted by the agents of the owner with a view to arranging a meeting with PC Members to discuss the development of the site. Meeting arrangements would be made shortly.

f) Persimmons Homes Planning Application

A statement of common ground with Broomfield PC and Newlands Spring Residents Association had already been submitted to CCC with the proviso that revisions may be made following consideration by Chignal PC at their meeting on 12 January. The Parish Council was now to submit its individual comments to CCC. A Discussion Paper giving a Summary of what was being proposed by Persimmon Homes on land north of Copperfield Road (planning application 14/01672/FUL), had been previously circulated. The meeting was asked to review the document and provide any further comments for inclusion. The following response would be sent to CCC.

Chignal Parish Council Comments, 12th January 2015

1.1 Background

In addition to the points raised jointly with Broomfield Parish Council and the Newlands Residents Association in a 'Statement of Common Ground' which has already been submitted to the City Council, Chignal Parish Council would like to make some specific comments in relation to the above planning applications. We reserve the right to comment separately on Application 14/01672/OUT at the detailed application stage.

2. Road Safety

2.2 The 'Statement of Common Ground' mentioned above, focusses on the anticipated impact of the construction of a new access road and on the additional pressure that traffic from residential

development on land north of Copperfield Road will put on the existing local rural and residential road network. A growing number of vehicles appear to be using our narrow country lanes, using the northern section of Chignal Road, Breeds Road and Larks Lane in Great Waltham to avoid driving through Chelmsford. The additional domestic and commercial traffic that will be generated from this residential development and from the adjacent site that will be served by the new access road will exacerbate problems such as verge damage, increased maintenance requirements and increased safety concerns.

2.3 In particular, we have increasing concerns about safety at the junctions of Chignal Road with Breeds Road in Chignal Smealy and with Mashbury Road in Chignal St James. We believe that investigations should be undertaken to identify the specific problems for drivers using these junctions and that resources need to be allocated to implement appropriate solutions that would allow vehicles to enter and exit Chignal Road more safely.

3. Public Rights of Way

3.1 The public footpath 45 in Chignal Parish should be maintained appropriately within the development site. This right of way is not shown on the Indicative Landscape Masterplan (JBA 10/03-04) and we would expect this omission to be to be rectified in any detailed Planning Application for this site.

Chignal Parish Council continued

4. Public Question Time

- a) A resident raised concerns regarding planning application 14/01672/FUL In particular the proposals regarding the traffic rights of way at the proposed changes to the junction of hollow Lane and Chignal Road. Increasing concerns about safety at the junctions of Chignal Road with Breeds Road in Chignal Smealy and with Mashbury Road in Chignal St James Chignal Road were also raised.
- b) A resident was advised that organisers of running and cycling events which frequently came through the village, were not required to have formal permissions or give forward notice of events.
- c) Concerns were again raised that no action had been taken by the Highways Department to address the amount of surface water on Mashbury Road near to sharp bends by Pieces Cottage and the 3 Elms Public House. Cllr John Aldridge agreed to take up the matter.
- d) Concerns were raised that the Highways Department had failed to find and inspect and resolve a problem with a large manhole cover on the main carriage way outside Stevens Farm barns. It was reported that the manhole cover lifted from time to time due to the pressure of the blockage. Cllr John Aldridge agreed to take up the matter.
- e) With regard to the issues of large delivery lorries associated with Gardening Express a resident shared observations that Large Lorries were continuing to unload and then turn around by The Green at unsocial hours, (around 9pm on Saturday evenings and at 7am on Sunday mornings).

5. Chairman's Report

- a) The Chairman was pleased to announce that work to improve 'passing places' in Chignal Smealy was progressing following a site meeting with County Highways involving local residents in December. Local land owners would be contacted regarding the proposals shortly: the work would begin in March.

A note of thanks was given to Cllr. Aldridge for his assistance in the matter. The meeting was reminded that this was an election year. CPC currently had seven councillors, but there might be one or two vacancies in the near future. The Chairman asked for those interested in becoming a Parish Council councillor, to put their names forward to the Clerk. An article asking interested people to nominate themselves would be placed in the next Chignal News.

6. County And City Councillors' Reports

- Cllr Nicolette Chambers informed the meeting as follows:
- a) Cllr Chambers agreed to represent Chignal Parish Council with regard to planning Application No.: 14/01672/FUL and 14/01672/OUT which was to be considered at the CCC planning meeting to be held on the 20 January.
 - b) Cllr Chambers would be pleased to assist Mashbury through the governance process and procedure.
 - c) A prestigious community evening was to be held on 13 March as part of the Mayors Events. Parishes could nominate a member of their parish to receive recognition for their good works within the community.

Cllr John Aldridge informed the meeting as follows:

- a) Further to a Government review ECC would be receiving £49M less central funding than last year. There was cautious optimism that changes to the way that existing services were being delivered would prevent any reduction in services to the elderly or vulnerable.
- b) ECC would however be receiving an additional £50M for schemes to improve the Harlow stretch of the M11 and for Dualling of the A120 between Braintree and Marks Tey.
- c) Writtle PC was hosting an evening meeting with Police Chief Inspector Cook regarding the reduction of PCSO's level of policing in village communities. Cllr Middleditch agreed to attend and Cllr Philpot would be informed of the meeting.

Chignal Parish Council continued

- d) ECC was not receiving its fair share of funds from Central Government. Work continues with regard to seeking limited Devolution.
- e) ECC would be hosting events with schools related to the 800 year anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta.
- f) Response to the Government consultation on Gypsy and Traveller Sites was to be published in the summer.

7. **Community Games**

Essex County Council 'Active Essex' funding was available to parishes to stage sporting/cultural events between April and September 2015. Cllr Middleditch agreed to develop some ideas and if appropriate, progress an application.

8. **Parish Cleansing Days Parish Litter Pick**

Cllr Feltwell agreed to progress the application for parish cleansing days. It was agreed the parish Litter Pick would take place on Saturday 21 March 2015. The Clerk would look into whether the Parish could be supplied with 10 litter picks that could be held permanently within the parish.

9. **Planning Applications**

The following decisions were noted:

14/01623/FUL 2 School View,

It is not considered that the proposed development will have a detrimental visual impact from the road and it does not appear that it will unduly affect adjoining residents. **Permitted**

14/05261/TPO The Old School, felling a TPO oak –

There is no indication in the application that the tree is damaged or diseased or that it is causing harm to the property. Given the considerable wildlife and amenity value of this oak and the clear guidance on tree preservation provided in

the VDS, there does not appear to be sufficient justification to overturn the TPO to enable it to be felled and replaced with a non-native ornamental tree. **Refused. 14/01581/FUL Old Manse, side extension**

The Village Design Statement recommends that "Extensions should be sympathetic to the property and in harmony with the surroundings", page 20. It is not considered that the proposed development will have a detrimental visual impact from the road or nearby Right of Way. As the Old Manse is detached and located some distance from other dwellings, neither will it unduly affect adjoining residents. **Permitted 14/00976/FUL Western Parcel, Copperfield Road, Countryside amended application. Agreed in principle subject to S106**

Application 14/01689 and 14/01690

Chignal Hall, Chignal Hall Road.

Proposed Orangery to side, extend kitchen to side at ground floor, glazed link extension, garage extension, new pool building, tennis courts and fence enclosure, dormer window amendments, vehicular gates, extend driveway, loft room extension, new loft stair, alterations to fenestration including first floor and second floor side windows. **Permitted**

Application 14/01550/FUL Pieces

Cottages, Proposed Single storey side extension & first floor side extension.

Permitted Application 14/01672/OUT

Eastern Parcel Land North Of Copperfield Road Chelmsford –Hybrid application for residential development to include (i) full planning permission for a new link road, junction realignment and two new access points to site, and (ii) outline planning permission sought for development consisting of up to 198 dwellings, including landscaping and open space (all matters reserved except access). **Pending Consideration**

Chignal Parish Council continued

Application 14/01677/FUL Beaumont Otes, Chignal Road, Chignal Smealy - Construction of an agricultural steel portal framed building designed as a purpose made grain storage & drying facility
Permitted

Application 14/01686/FUL Forge Cottage Chignal Road Chignal Smealy Construction of fence and trellis
Permitted

Application 14/01659/FUL Boyton Hall Farm, Boyton Hall, Roxwell. Variation to condition 1 of retrospective permission 12/00216/FUL for resurfacing and improvement of existing farm track.
Permitted

Application 14/01320/OUT Land at Hillcroft Chignal Road Chignal Smealy New Detached Dwelling House with Detached Garage. **Appeal in Progress**
New Applications

There were no new applications for consideration at this time.

10. **Orchard Committee**

The minutes of the subcommittee meetings held 15 October and 26 November were noted. The Wassailing evening had again been very successful. The BBC Essex 'Quest' programme visited the orchard on 11 January and interviewed Cllr Ballard. Sadly they had arrived late for the event, primarily because the road sign to Chignal St James at Langleys' corner was missing. The Friends of Priory Fields from Bicknacre had enjoyed their recent visit to the orchard. Regrettably there had been no response to the request for an Easter Egg Hunt coordinator for the event planned in April.

11. **Representatives' Reports** – the Meeting noted the following reports:

A) Playing Field - A local Rugby Club had requested to again use the playing field this year.

B) Village Hall Liaison

A letter had been received from Lafarge advising that grant funding decisions would be delayed until the end of January. The meeting was reminded that a Quiz night was to be held in the Village Hall on 21 March.

C) Newsletter Including Website

The Christmas edition gave details of village events. A meeting had been arranged for 28 January to begin work to develop the web site and news letter so as to include a community diary of events

D) Gravel Liaison

Lafarge were on target to finish the restoration by the end of this year. Tree planting would take place this autumn.

E) Village Watch

No Report at this time.

F) Highways

Concerns had again been raised regarding hedge cutting near to the 3 Elms Public house. Land owners had now addressed the situation.

G) Footpaths/Bridleways

A works order for resurfacing had been raised with Chelmsford City Council.

H) Telephone Box - Chignal St. James Dulux Paints had been contacted with a request for funding for the cost of materials to paint the telephone box. Other paint suppliers would also be contacted.

I) Tree Warden

Cllr Ballard advised that a local land owner had informed parish councillors of a phased program of hedge cutting and tree maintenance. The meeting was advised that all permissions and Forestry Commission tree felling licence were in place.

Chignal Parish Council continued

12. Finance

- a) Members had received and approved quarter end accounts as at 31 December 2014. Current balances were £4,470.64 current account and £3,237.73 community account.
- b) Cheques issued since last meeting were noted as follows; Village Hall Hire £130.00 EEOP replacement apple tree (Orchard) £22.95, Chelmsford DBF £67.34 Newsletter, Chignal & Mashbury PCC £350.00 Grant funding for tree works. S. Bailey £12.00, Lanterns for Orchard. Cllr S. Middleditch , £27.99 Megaphone (Orchard), Chelmsford DBF £68.00 December Invoice.

13. Correspondence For Information

The Clerk circulated voluntary sector information.

14. Late Urgent Business

None

15. Date Of Next Meeting of the Parish Council 9 March 2015 at 7.0 pm in the Village Hall, this will be followed by The Annual Parish Meeting To be held at 8.00 pm on Monday the 9 March 2015 in the Village Hall.

Would you like to become a Chignal Parish Councillor?

In May 2015 we will elect up to seven councillors to represent the parish for a maximum of four years. Some existing councillors may choose to stay and stand for re-election but it is likely that that we shall have some vacancies to fill.

Why become a Parish Councillor?

There's more to being a parish councillor than sitting in meetings in the village hall.

Many people seek to sit on the council because they want to give something back to their community: they are proud of it and want to protect its interests or help bring about change for the better. They wish to speak for the residents and make sure their voice is heard in any important decisions affecting the parish. Basically, they want to help. Their job is therefore to be active in the community, know what local people's views are and faithfully represent them to the parish council.

By becoming a parish councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support. Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement.

What decisions do Parish Councils make?

Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities. It's true to say that on their own, parish councils have limited powers to make decisions. But they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those other organisations that do make the final decisions (such as the City Council, County Council, police etc).

In this respect parish councils are extremely powerful. The organisations that make the final decisions know that a parish council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something, and its views will be taken seriously.

Chignal Parish Council continued

How much time does it take up?

Chignal Parish Council has a full meeting every two months in the village hall in Chignal St James to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings usually start at 7.30pm and may last two or three hours, depending on the agenda. In addition to the regular meetings, councillors may be required to attend other meetings representing the council: for example acting as a representative on an outside body, community activities or helping develop a new project. Such meetings don't happen every day, so it's not going to take over your life.

Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

First of all, you must be eligible to stand for election. To be eligible you must be 18 years of age or over, a British or Irish citizen, or a citizen of a Commonwealth or European Union country, and have at least one of the following qualifications:

- you are on, and remain on for the duration of your term of office, the electoral register for the parish, and/or
- you have occupied, as an owner or tenant, land or premises in the parish for the whole 12 months before the date of nomination and the date of the election, and/or
- your main or only place of work during the whole 12 months before the date of nomination and the date of the election is in the parish, and/or
- you have lived within 3 miles (4.8 km) of the parish during the whole 12 months before the date of nomination and the date of the election

The process of standing for election is straightforward. You need to complete a nomination form, which you can obtain from the Parish Council Clerk, and get two people to sign it in support of your nomination. You do, though, have to deliver it in person to the Returning Officer at the Civic Centre in Chelmsford, but it only takes a few minutes to check the form and confirm that it's alright for you to stand. For the elections on 7 May, nominations can be delivered on any working day between 24 March and 4pm on 9 April.

If you do become a parish councillor you will have to sign up to the Code of Conduct.

If you feel that you have something to give to your local community, why not stand for election to the Parish Council and help shape the future of Chignal? The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now. Come along to the next parish council meeting on 9th March, or speak to one of our councillors and find out what they think of the job.

To find out more about being a parish councillor for Chignal, please contact the Clerk, Mrs Janet Mills, by email: chignalpc@gmail.com or by phone: 01376 741899.

Not being busy for Lent

At Corpus Christi college, Cambridge there is a clock made by John Taylor in 2008. On the top is a chronophage, a time eater, a locust type insect that gobbles up time, eating the passing seconds. It winks from time to time with satisfaction as it eats.

I wonder if you are giving anything up for Lent, or may be you are taking something on. When I've told people what I'm giving up for Lent they laugh and say good luck or how are you going to do that? Yet what I am giving up is pernicious and consistently takes me away from God and from people, persistently takes me away from what I need to focus on, where I need to spend my time.

What I am giving up for Lent is being busy.

So how can I do my job with 3 rural churches and 2 parishes and 2 church schools without being busy? When a group of vicars get together you can guarantee that they will moan about being busy, being too busy. But this isn't a problem just for ministers, it's a problem for so many of us, Mums, people working long hours in their jobs even retired people are busy and tell you they don't know how they fitted in work and that their diary is full. Many of us are running faster and not keeping up. There is more to do than time to do it. The faster we go, the worse it seems to get. The more we do the more is expected of us, the more we expect of ourselves.

So when we say busy what do we think of? Important? Wanted? Capable? Popular? efficient Or could busy mean self-important? Unable to delegate or work as a team? Not trusting others and not trusting God? Micro managing.

Eugene Patterson says: The word busy is the symptom not of commitment but of betrayal. It is not devotion but defection. The adjective busy set

as a modifier to pastor should sound in our ears like adulterous to characterise a wife or embezzling to describe a banker.

Tough words. Not just for us ministers but for all of us.

Stephen Cherry in his excellent little book *Beyond Busyness* thinks busyness is a disease, that the world does not need people who are constantly hassled, anxious or busy.

The questions I am asking myself is what is busy like and what is its opposite? Trusting God with time as well as everything else?

How can I not BE busy? How can I know and live in knowing that I have enough time? That I am doing what is most important, what God is calling me to today, how can I grow in time wisdom? How can I know the right time for different things, not just being dominated by clock time

Knowing there is a time for everything.

Knowing that I can live a full life, that includes the things and people I love and still be an effective minister loving and leading

But this is relevant for so many of us.

Join me at this time in learning how we can be time wise together. If you put Great Waltham into facebook you'll find us and can join the game. I will be interested to know what you think, what you are giving up or taking on, or you can join in not BEING busy.... we can share how we are doing.

Revd. Caroline Brown

This talk was given on BBC Radio Essex on Sunday 15 February at 7.50am on the Steve Holmes show. You can listen again for 30 days.

St. Nicholas' Church

EVENTS AND SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS AND THE OTHER ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Wed	11 March	9am	Morning Prayer	St Nicholas, Chignals with Mashbury
Sun	15 March	11am	Mothering Sunday Family Service	FAMILY ATTRACTIVE St Nicholas, Chignals with Mashbury
Wed	25 March	8pm	AGM	Chignals Village hall All welcome
Sun	29 March	10am	Joint service	St John's Ford End
Sun	5 April	11am	Easter Sunday communion	St Nicholas, Chignals with Mashbury
Wed	8 Apr	9am	Morning Prayer	St Nicholas, Chignals with Mashbury
Sun	19 April	11am	Morning Prayer	St Nicholas, Chignals with Mashbury
Sun	23 April		Licensing of new ministry team	Great Leighs (tickets needed)
Sun	10 May	10am	Joint rogation service	FAMILY ATTRACTIVE St John's Ford End
Wed	12 May	9am	Morning Prayer	St Nicholas, Chignals with Mashbury
Sun	17 May	11am	Walk & communion & reflective service for non walkers based on rogation tbc	FAMILY ATTRACTIVE St Nicholas, Chignals with Mashbury
Sun	31 May		Joint service	Leighs or Little Waltham

Come to our AGM on 25 March and find out what we have planned for the year and how you can join in. Refreshments provided

Want to know more? Call Revd. Caroline Brown 01245 364081 cjbrown42@hotmail.co.uk

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 10th April 2015 for next publication 5th May 2015