

Three Elms Presentation

No. 135

May 2009



This is the cheque presentation to Shelley and Matt Jeffers for their daughter Cassie. They live in Chignal St James and need to take Cassie to Slovakia for specialist treatment that is not available in Gt. Britain. The money was raised by the regulars of the Three Elms at quiz nights and other fund raising activities.

Editorial - Linda Nelson

A bumper edition this quarter, for the first time the newsletter now has 8 pages. This has happened because there is a lot going on in our villages and more people and organisations are contributing to the newsletter. I hope more of you will be encouraged to contribute as we want to make this newsletter interesting and informative. The villages are looking beautiful this spring - I hope you enjoy the photo of the tulips in our front garden. These were a gift from our Dutch friend Roeland who gave them to us four years ago. Roeland celebrated his 50th birthday on the 2nd of May, which; co-incidentally, is Graham's birthday too. Roeland invited us to his 50th birthday bash in Utrecht. The plants in the gardens in Utrecht seemed further ahead than our plants, there was a lot of Wisteria out, but we saw nothing more magnificent than those in our villages.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

Chignal News



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St Nicholas Services

May 10th
May 17th
May 24th
May 31st
June 7th
June 14th
June 21st

All Services start at 11 am

In February we had to cancel our meeting due to snow but we held it one week later. Unfortunately the booked speaker was unable to attend so we had a members art & craft afternoon. What a lot of talent this produced, we had examples of painting on silk, watercolours, knitting and crochet, embroidery, mathematical structures, beading and millinery. One of our members, Rosina Bugg, who had worked in the House of Hartnell, the Royal couturier, gave us an interesting insight into the workings of a fashion house. In March one of our members, Anita Howard, took us back to the 1940s and 1950s in verse. Anita is a published poet who even has a poem on the National Curriculum and is the poetry representative for the National Society of Journalists. Anita presents her poems well due to her lively personality. The poems brought back a lot of happy childhood memories. In recent months three past members of the WI have died, Mrs. Joan Chapman who was landlady of 'The Pig and Whistle', Mrs. Queenie Bird and Miss Nora Hoy. Mrs. Chapman was a very talented artist and was able to do many crafts with perfection, Mrs. Bird was one of the team of early members who established this WI and the village will not be the same without her. Miss Hoy was an outstanding member of this WI, she joined the WI in the late 60s and became secretary in the early 70s. Presidents

came and went quite rapidly when Nora was secretary, but, Nora continued as secretary until she became President in 1981. Nora remained as President until 1991 when her illness made it impossible to continue. Nora was an excellent cook and one of her recipes was included in an Essex Federation Recipe Book, she had a great interest in local history and she wrote a brief account of the Chignals which was published in the Essex Federation Villages Book.

Future Meetings:

June 4th Garden Meeting

July 2nd Buckingham Palace Garden Parties

Mrs. Margaret Jones

Meetings held 2.30pm in the Village Hall (except June), visitors always welcome.

Chignal 4 Art. The art group continues to meet on the 4th Thursday of the month. This is always a pleasant, relaxed afternoon and a surprising amount of art work is produced. Recently the group has attempted Impressionist techniques, looked at the effect of light in watercolour, discussed decorated eggs for Easter and craft additions to watercolour. Beginners are always welcome.

There will be an Art Exhibition at the fete again this year, if anyone would like to submit work for it please contact Myra Wilkins on 440 659.

Bowls Club

Our Finals Night was held on 17th March when the Ladies Singles was won by Yvonne Towns, with Ann Coates Runner-up. The Men's Singles was won by Geoff Coates with Roy Smith Runner-up. The Pairs Final was then played and won by Ann and Geoff Coates with Roy Smith and Bill Knight Runners-up. This was followed by a presentation of the Trophies, and cheese and biscuits with wine.

The A.G.M. Was held on 24th March. Before the meeting the match was played for the Bill Hawkes Trophy, which is played annually between the winner of the Men's Singles and the winner of the Ladies Singles. This was won by Geoff and the Trophy was presented by Helen Hawkes.

On Saturday 28th March, the competition for the Mike Bell Trophy was played. Starting at 9.30 a.m. with a break for lunch, the Final was played between Sheila Evans partnering Kathleen Huggett and Ann and Geoff Coates. This was won by Sheila and Kathleen. In the evening, Club players and guests had a meal at The Crown in Sandon, where Margaret Bell presented the Trophy to the Winners.

On Friday 27th March, we played a Friendly Game at R.H.P., resulting in a win for them. There were two friendly matches in April against Broomfield and Purleigh.

Ann Coates

Village Hall

Village Hall Chairman's Report 2007-2008

The committee held five official meetings during the past year. The year started with the biggest event held at the hall for a number of years, namely the official opening of the extensions to the hall. With the mayor of Chelmsford and over 100 residents and guests, the day went off extremely well. The comments from those attending were indirectly a big thank you to the committee for all the hard work they had put in. Continuing on the social side we held whist drives, a barn dance and a coffee morning which were all well attended. Across at Woodhall the fete was again a big success with the weather being kind to us to ensure a large turnout. Again thank you to Beryl and Norman Wastenev for the use of their garden.

I must also thank the local groups who continue to make good use of the hall, with increased memberships further to the hall's improvements. Work continues to improve the facilities and appearance of the hall; during the year we have seen the installation of new double glazed windows, curtains, fire doors, doors to the entrance hall and, outside, the new patio area. There has also been a considerable amount of decorating, both outside and in, carried out by the committee work party.

The finance report shows a reasonable balance, however we do need to resurface the car park, an expensive operation. We have been awarded £5,000 from Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund towards the cost and are now applying to the Lottery Fund's Awards for All for further financial assistance so, hopefully, the car park will be done this summer. The other major item outstanding is to tidy the grounds so there is a good area for use in the fine weather.

Village Clean Up

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank all those who supported the cleanup. We had an excellent turnout at both the Village Hall and Woodhall Farm. This is a worthwhile job that benefits the villages.

Gordon Lee



From the foregoing you will appreciate the hall would not be in its present modern condition without the voluntary work of the committee – so a big thank you to the officers and members for their support throughout the year.

Finally – as I have repeatedly stated in the newsletter – new committee members are needed and would be welcomed.

Does anyone have a PA system that the committee could use at the fete? We would also appreciate any and all offers of help with this year's fete at Woodhall on Saturday 6th June please contact the secretary on 441241.

Mrs Queenie Bird

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Mrs Queenie Bird recently. At the same time as bringing up her large family at their home at Boundary Cottages in Chignal St James Mrs Bird was also the caretaker at the village school. She was always at the village children's Christmas party to lend a helping hand, regularly attended the weekly whist drives and for many years she provided the teas for cricket matches in the village.

Those who did not know her by name would certainly have recognised her as the lady who did the raffle at the village fete and Christmas coffee morning every year.

Mrs Bird continued her long association with the villages until the end of her life and the committee would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work she did and the enormous contribution she made to the village hall. We extend our condolences to her family, especially Mrs Cherry Scott.

Requests

If you have any spare balls of knitting wool of any ply or colour and no matter how small the amount, it can be used to make children's sweaters and bobble hats by Mrs Enid Harvard. Once completed the knitted items are distributed to children in Africa and Eastern Europe by Christian Hope International. If you have any wool please contact Enid on 01245 266067 to arrange collection, wool can also be left with Eve Pitts at 2 Ivy Cottage, CSJ or bring any contributions along to the Village Fete on Saturday 6th June at Woodhall Farm.

Mashbury Parish Meeting

A meeting of Mashbury residents was held on 31st March at the Salvation Army Hall which, as usual, was very well attended. Cllrs John Aldridge and Nicolette Chambers were also in attendance to support the discussion.

The condition of local roads continues to be a major concern for residents; in particular the stretch of Fox Road in the Bards Hall area, but also the general problem of deep potholes on several roads. These concerns will be raised again with the Highways Team, but Cllr Aldridge did encourage residents to log specific problems themselves, either via the County Council website or by phone.

There were no specific reports from Neighbourhood Watch and the regular distribution of the newsletter to every home will be used to send out the useful list of contact

Essex County Council

Following this year's bad weather we have all noticed the effect on the surface of our roads. Damage has been sustained in the urban areas but is particularly noticeable on our narrower rural roads. The Highways Service in Mid Essex have been trying hard over recent weeks to remedy the worst of the road faults, whilst not delaying road improvement projects that have been in the pipeline for many months. The County's Highway Inspectors will try to log all road faults but if you have noted any serious road defect, whether it be a pot hole, broken kerbing, defective street light or damaged street sign, then please report it soonest so that appropriate remedial action can be taken – don't leave it to others. For Internet users click on the ECC website <http://www.essex.gov.uk> and follow the "Report a Highway Fault" box which will give you a reference number and confirmation that the fault has been registered. Alternatively, telephone 0845 603 7622.

The recent High Court decision rejecting the appeal against the further expansion of passenger numbers at Stansted Airport came as a bit of a blow to many campaigners. The County Council recognises the arguments made for the Airport expansion by BAA, from 24 million passengers per year to 35 million; although in the present climate it is hard to see how such numbers can be sustained. However, The County Council is wholly opposed to the construction of a second runway at Stansted. It is hoped that the ruling by the Competition Commission, to demand that BAA sell Stansted within two years, will end the wholesale expansion of the Airport into Essex's rural hinterland.

numbers compiled by Essex Police. The Village Hall Committee is working on bids to supplement the funding already received to surface the car park.

There were enough volunteers for the Village Litter Pick to ensure that all Parish roads are cleaned and we are all grateful to them for their hard work.

Among the queries raised by residents was clarification on the impact of proposed electoral boundary changes and it was confirmed that these will only impact on Parliamentary representation – County and Borough wards are unaffected. The Parish is indebted to the Salvation Army for allowing use of the Hall for this meeting.

Moira Tarrant, Chair, Mashbury Parish Meeting

Despite the difficulties of an ever increasing demand for Adult Social Care Services, Essex County Council was recently awarded the highest star rating (3 Stars) by the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate (CSCI). This is no mean achievement when budgets are so tight. As these Services have such a major impact on the quality of life, for so many of our residents, I can also advise that the number of adult social care users receiving "Personal Budgets" has increased tenfold to over 300 since the scheme was introduced by Essex last year. This has enabled our disabled and elderly residents to receive the financial support to meet their social care needs and retain their independence by remaining in their homes.

Finally, the **Broomfield & Writtle County Division** currently lies within the Parliamentary Constituency of West Chelmsford. However, following the review by the independent Boundary Commission in 2005, the Division will become part of the Parliamentary Constituency of Saffron Walden - **but only when the next General Election is called**. The boundaries of all Essex County Divisions and Chelmsford Borough Wards will remain unaffected.

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

Cllr. John Aldridge – April 2009