

Villagers at the Official Re-Launch of the Village Hall

No. 129

May 2008



Three Elms Charity Cheque Presentation



Regulars of the Tuesday night quiz present a cheque for £1000 to the Air Ambulance Essex Charity. If you want to have some fun and help a good cause, pop into the Three Elms on a Tuesday night and join in with the quiz.

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St Nicholas Services

May 18th
May 25th

June 1st
June 8th
June 15th
June 22nd

All Services start at 11 am

Gardening Club

The gardening club has enjoyed a variety of speakers this spring.

Tim Carter of Long House Plants nursery spoke on colour theming; illustrating the impact of different plant combinations and contrasts across the colour spectrum. Tim brought a range of his beautiful plants for sale including Hellebores and spring plants together with most interesting shrubs. By contrast Dr Jill Raggett of Writtle College, one of the top experts on Japanese gardens, guided us through the great historic gardens of China highlighting the significance of the features.

Our AGM including a plant swap and fun quiz was on 16th April. As usual Mary-Jane produced the quiz, which was challenging but fun. Over the summer months we have planned garden visits starting with Wickham Place Farm on the evening of 21 May.

Wine Discovery

In February the club was treated to a vertical tasting. With a vertical tasting everything remains the same except the vintage of the wine. One might expect that the wines would taste the same but they are surprisingly different when tasted side by side.

The difficulty arises in sourcing the wines for these tastings, as most retailers do not have three different vintages of the same wine stocked on their shelves. However, we managed to taste a Bourgogne Blanc (chardonnay) 2001, 2004 and 2006 and a Sao Domingos Dao (a Portuguese wine) 1999, 2000 and 2003.

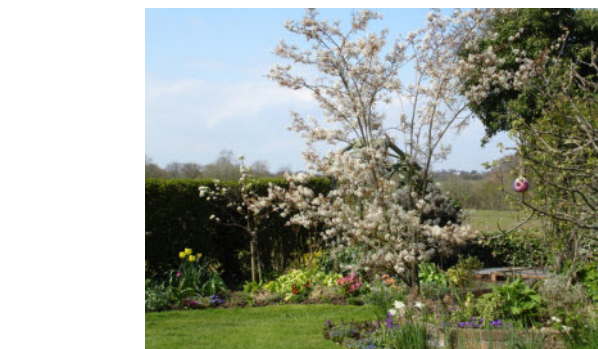
I cannot begin to explain the subtle differences between these wines caused by the variance in climatic conditions from one year to the next, but thank you John for organising the evening.

The March tasting was hosted by Colin Legg, a tutor for the Essex Community College, and was based on wines from the Alsace – a region in the northeast of France. The region is very northerly so the grapes ripen very slowly to produce wines that are “pure, clean and bursting with flavour” (Colin's words). The wines are always in distinctive tall, flute shaped bottles and are all white wines save for a tiny percentage of Pinot

Noir. There are four grapes that are considered “noble” in the Alsace and we tasted the Riesling, Pinot Gris and Gewurztraminer, leaving Muscat for another evening.

I have enjoyed wines from the Alsace for several years and so was looking forward to a good evening – I was not disappointed. We tasted 2 wines of each grape variety, the first of a good quality followed by a wine of the same grape variety but a Grand Cru class wine. My favourite was the Gewurztraminer Grand Cru, which had an exceptionally long flavour that lingered in your mouth long after the wine had departed.

If you want to find out more about wines amongst friends in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere then come along and try the wine club, and if you have never tried wines from the Alsace then I recommend you give them a try.



The wine club next meet in the Village Hall on Friday 13th June, if anyone is interested in coming along or would like to know more then please contact Dave on 442474.



Bowls Club

The club started the year well by reaching the Final of the West Area Knockout competition, but losing to Pleshey. A team from the club also reached the final of the Stock Fours where we lost to Roxwell.

The Mike Bell Trophy day was held in February, the trophy being won by Gordon Hillyear and John

Day. In the evening members and guests had a very enjoyable meal at the Three Elms.

Bowls nights are Tuesdays and Thursdays 7.45 until 10pm

Contact:- Ann or Geoff Coates on 01245 441515 or Gordon Hillyear on 01245 231406



Village Fete

Second Hand Books/DVDs

As ever we need your support for the Village Fete on Saturday 7 June. Last year we had a big spring clean of old stock to make room for the village hall refurbishment, and now we need to restock.

Please go through your bookshelves and let us have any unwanted books and DVDs for us to sell on the day. They can be left with me at Wych Elm, Mashbury Road, or brought on the day.

Please contact Carolyn Anstey on 01245 441406 for more details

Women's Institute



At the February meeting Mr. Barry Moulton from Wakes Colne gave a most fascinating demonstration of encaustic art. With a hot iron and blocks of coloured beeswax he created small 3d landscapes in seconds. So many different textures could be created with the iron. Some members tried their hand at it but decided it definitely needs practice. Audrey Willmott won the competition for an arrangement of spring flowers. In March Mr. David Possee aided with computer generated lists gave a talk on the silk industry in the 19th century in Essex and Suffolk. The competition for an item of silk provided a blaze of colour with items including scarves, boxes and a heraldic banner. The worthy winner was a silk picture recently brought back from China by Janet Campen. The talk about Aloe Vera given by Mr. & Mrs. Matthews from Colchester in April was also very interesting Everyone always welcome.

A craft, coffee and conversation day was held at the beginning of May, which raised about £70

Future Dates:

June 5th Japan - a world apart Mrs. Margaret Rogers.

(Myra Wilkins and Anita Howard will be attending the W.I. National A.G.M. in Liverpool in June.)

July 3rd A garden meeting by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. M. Cater

QUIZ A big THANK YOU to everyone who attended the Quiz evening on March 29th, it was good fun and after expenses a donation will be made to the Village Hall fund. Many thanks to Janet Campen and Gill Cater who provided a delicious light supper. The quiz winners were 'No Trumps' led by W. I. member Rosina Bugg very closely followed by 'The famous five' led by W.I. member Anita Howard, but all final scores were close, so congratulations to you all.

Please contact Myra Wilkins on 01245 440659, for more details on any W.I. events

Art Club

New members have been welcomed and many art works produced in a very happy atmosphere. The group meets every 4th Thursday from 12noon to 4pm at the Village Hall

Tuition for beginners. £2 per meeting to cover the cost of the Hall.

Details Myra Wilkins 01245 440659

Chignal Parish Council

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10th MARCH 2008 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Delivery Lorries to Nursery – A highways engineer has examined the damage to the corner of the Green and given his advice. It was reported that some trees are still being damaged by lorries and a water cover has been broken. The owner of the nursery attended the meeting and provided a statement denying that any of his lorries turn round on the Green and he clarified the nature of his business.

The dangerous infilling used by Lafarge on the track has been removed and more suitable materials used for the remedial works.

Proposed Reservoir – It was agreed that once the planning application is received, a meeting will be convened for parishioners to address the issues arising.

VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – no problems were reported

NEWSLETTER incl. WEBSITE – A donation towards the cost of printing the Newsletter has been received from a parishioner.

GRAVEL LIAISON – The liaison meeting was held on 11th February 2008 when the latest progress was discussed. There was no further information on the planning application for a shredder on site. A further site visit is planned for later in the year. HIGHWAYS – No repairs have been carried out to the numerous potholes and a list will be forwarded to the Highways Department showing the location of all potholes in the Parish which require attention. Ditches have been cleared since the last meeting.

A list of priorities for improvements to highways requested at the last meeting was agreed and will be forwarded to the Highways Department.

FOOTPATHS – Complaints reported at the last meeting have been resolved.

VDS – The AGM will take place in the Village Hall on 14th April.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – C.Cllr Aldridge reported that he had received a letter from the Probation Service offering additional unpaid labour for projects either currently underway or work which could be undertaken to provide some worthwhile service in the community.

Councillor Chambers explained that her term of office as Mayor will end on 14th May and she will be holding a ward surgery on 12th April in the Village Hall, the time to be confirmed.

PLANNING

Chignal Hall Farm – change of use of redundant buildings – the application is still under investigation by the Borough Council.

Broomwood Manor – extensions- a new application has been submitted .

Pig & Whistle – Provision of signs – the siting has been agreed and the criteria for the erection of tourism signs clarified.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that no police were present for the monthly meeting in the car park of the Village Hall in February and a check will be made on whether this service is to continue.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting which will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday

Dates for your Diary

Village Fete - Woodhall Farm
Saturday 7th June
From 1p.m.

Writtle Gardens Open Day
Sunday 22nd June from 12 noon to 6 p.m.
In Aid of All Saints Church Writtle.
Contact Jean & Doug Pinkney on
01245 421503 for more details

Volunteers Wanted

Have you a few hours to spare?

Would you like to be a good neighbour and put something back into your community?

Then why not come and join our Home from Hospital volunteer team and make a real difference to people's lives.

No regular commitment is required and all out of pocket expenses are reimbursed.

Simply ring Lisa or Margaret on 01621 773733 for an application form and further information.

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Report of the Chignal Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 10th March 2008 in the Village Hall

The meeting was attended by Parish Councillors, a County Councillor, Borough Councillor and 17 parishioners.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN – Chris Philpot was proposed and seconded and duly elected.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - were received from Tony Mawer and Cherry Scott

MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting of 12th March 2007 were read, agreed and signed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and also thanked his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their continuing support. He also thanked the two local councillors John Aldridge and Nicolette Chambers for their help and guidance and Linda Nelson for editing the Newsletter. The Chairman highlighted the two most important projects for the Parish in the last twelve months:

- a) The VDS which is progressing slowly.
- b) Extensions to the village hall – the work is now complete with an official opening ceremony arranged for 5th April.

The Chairman reported that there is now a police presence at most Parish Council meeting and representatives from the Highways Department attended the last meeting to explain the criteria used in prioritising road repairs and other highways issues,

CLUB REPORTS -

CHIGNAL & MASHBURY GARDENING CLUB – the Club continues to flourish with membership up on previous years. Visits to various gardens were arranged for the Summer and there have been a succession of good speakers throughout the year.

BOWLS CLUB – the Club has now been in existence for 20 years and meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 7.30 to 10 pm. in the Village Hall. New members are always welcome with or without previous experience. There is a full programme of friendly matches against other local clubs and an active social diary.

WOMENS INSTITUTE – Myra Wilkins, the President, was pleased to report that four new members have joined during the year. There has been a good variety of speakers and members have been able to support local charities including Woodlands School, the St. Raphael Club, the local Church, Farleigh Hospice and MIND.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Tony Wilkins, the area co-ordinator, thanked the local volunteers for regularly distributing the yellow bulletins. He reported that the main area of concern has been the theft of car badges by young children and it was suggested that owners be particularly vigilant.

CRICKET CLUB – The Club has had a very successful season in 2007 with the 1st teams gaining promotion to

Division 1 and the 2nd eleven finished 3rd in their division. Coaching has been available for boys under 15 on Monday evenings and there have been mixed matches with teams comprising of 1st, 2nd and under 15's. The first match of the new season will be on 3rd May and a Race Night has been arranged for 15th November in the Village Hall to raise money for the Club.

WINE DISCOVERY GROUP – There are now 30 members and the Group meets on the second Friday of each month (except August) at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall. Trips have been arranged to France in the Summer with a visit to the winter market in the Alsace Region in December.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH – The church covers three parishes and although there is no incumbent morning services are held every Sunday. Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festivals are very well attended and the aim is to keep the church open at all times.

CHIGNAL CHAPEL – The Chapel has been in existence for over 160 years and services are held every Sunday and there is also a Sunday School,

VILLAGE HALL – Building works to the new toilets, entrance lobby and storage room are now complete with the official opening being arranged for 5th April. The next stage will include new windows and the purchase of new curtains which will be followed by improvements to the car park. Thanks were expressed for the financial help given by local Councils, the Big Lottery and other organisations. The Village Fete will be held on 7th June at Woodhall Farm.

VDS – A new draft has been requested by the Borough Council which will be discussed at a committee meeting shortly. The AGM will be held on 14th April by which time it is hoped that David Fincham will have made a full recovery from his illness.

VILLAGE CLEAN-UP DAY - The Clean-Up day was arranged for Saturday 29th March commencing at 9a.m at the Village Hall and Woodhall Farm Local farmers will be requested to provide transport and the usual arrangements made for the supply of equipment. A request was made for more support from parishioners,

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) A quiz has been arranged for 29th March in the Village Hall in aid of the Womens Institue and Village Hall funds. The cost is £4.00 which includes a light supper but drinks are not provided.

b) Newsletter – the editor, Linda Nelson, requested more contents for inclusion.

c) A complaint was made that the style erected at Dyers Hall is not suitable and contact will be made with the owner to resolve the problem.

DATE OFF NEXT MEETING - The next Annual Parish meeting was arranged for 8 p.m. on Monday 9th March 2009 in the Village Hall.

St. Nicholas' Church

Greetings from the Church Wardens and Congregation of St. Nicholas Church. We hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break. Easter was celebrated at St. Nicholas with a Holy Communion Service conducted by Canon Patrick Appleford.

Did you know that he is an accomplished hymn writer? Some of the congregation recently attended a special celebration of his hymns at Chelmsford Cathedral. We are very fortunate to have a man of such God given talent to come and take some of our services. We thought we would share a verse of one of his hymns with you.

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us,
Born as one of us,
Mary's son
Led out to die on Calvary,
Risen from death to set us free,
Living Lord Jesus help us see
You are Lord.



*Church of
St. Nicholas*

Our grateful thanks to the flower ladies. The church looked delightful, very Spring Like despite a "white" Easter. There were two very special arrangements; these were dedicated to Joan White and Janice Tompkins who sadly died before Easter.

Editorial

I write this sitting in my garden on a glorious Sunday afternoon; it feels very much like Summer, lets hope it lasts! Spring was certainly unusual this year including a sprinkling of snow. The colder weather extended the seasons for both daffodils and tulips and there have been some wonderful display in gardens around the villages. It also seems an exceptionally good year for lilac this year. Graham and I have enjoyed the wonderful scent when out riding our horses.

The last few months have been a busy time for the villages. The annual parish council meeting was well attended. It was very interesting seeing democracy in action as various parishioners expressed their opinions on the subjects being raised. This led to some very lively debates. Far more interesting than Eastenders!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS & MASHBURY

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Whilst on the subject of flowers we would like to thank the Village Hall Committee for the flowers that were given to us following the launching of the refurbishment of the village hall. Easter flowers despite the snow have certainly lived on in the Chignals; some of the flowers, at the request of the Village Hall Committee were later distributed to the sick and given to a visiting preacher. It has been noted that somebody very kindly has given the mats in the church a very good shake. Thank you very much, you know who you are!

Our village church continues to remain unlocked, please do feel free to visit it. The Church is there for everybody, including you!

Services are held at 11am each Sunday, Holy Communion is held on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays and Morning Prayer is held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday, everybody is warmly welcomed.

Thank you to those of you who have kept us informed of local need, this has enabled us to include the situation in our worship.

We trust that you are all well and look forward to seeing you in and around the parish.

The "official" re-launch of the Village Hall on Saturday April 5th was well attended with representatives from all generations of parishioners, as well as Club members who live outside our villages. It was good to catch up with friends and to get to know villagers we had previously not had a chance to meet. I thought it was a great success for our small community and both the catering and the wine were excellent! Perhaps it could become an annual event?

Unfortunately, there is no "Letter from the PCC Secretary" in this edition because Joy has been very ill recently, so we send her our best wishes and hope she makes a full recovery.

The next edition of the newsletter should be produced in the middle of June, so if you want to contribute any articles for the next newsletter please get them to me no later than 9th June.

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