



## Editorial by Linda Nelson

I am sure you are all aware of the fire at Mashbury stables, which occurred just after I had sent the last edition to the printers. The fire was started deliberately by some kids. I actually saw some of them on my way to the stables to ride and I did think it was strange that they were walking on the road at that time of day and dressed unsuitably for the cold and wet weather we were experiencing. But I had no idea that I was about to get a considerable shock, as I drove down the lane to see the blue flashing lights of a fire engine, not far from the stables where Graham and my horses were. My heart was in my mouth, until I managed to park and check our horses were ok. It was very frightening, as the lorries were parked by the barn and they could have blown up. As owners started to arrive, Conor Fenelon; our vet who was brilliant and just happened to be on a visit, started checking the horses breathing and advising us which horses needed to be moved. As the smoke was getting worse and changing direction a decision was made to put as many horses as possible out in the fields and either take "infirm" horses away from Mashbury or move them into other stables where they would be safer from the smoke. Everyone helped each other, but we all felt awful turning our horses out in the fields when the weather was so bad. Some horses were out for three days! We were all suffering from the smoke and poor Mouse; who grooms for us at Mashbury and had raised the alarm, had to receive treatment because of the amount of smoke she had inhaled! We are all grateful to the fire brigade and Chris' farm staff who were helping to control the blaze. The barn has now been demolished but there is still some hay that is smouldering. It makes you realise how dangerous fires can be. We were lucky no person or animal was hurt, but I still cannot understand why this happened. The thinking of those teenage kids is beyond my understanding and it makes you realise how unpredictable life can be.

Talking of change, I am sure that most of you are aware that Mark and Tina have moved from the Three Elms to the Pig & Whistle. The weekly quiz is still held at 9 p.m. on a Tuesday night and money is being raised for the selected charity during the charity round. So no doubt, we will feature future presentations to the recipients of the charity round funds. The Three Elms is now up to let so hopefully it will be re-opened shortly, as it would be a shame if we lost the pub in Chignal St. James.

I hope you are all enjoying the weather, which is now more like summer now and has made the spring flowers come out all at once, making a wonderful display in everyone's gardens. I hope we will have such lovely weather for both the Village Fete and the Concert being planned for this year. I hope as many of you as possible will support these events and the club activities that are run on a weekly or monthly basis. I would also like to extend a welcome to any newcomers to our villages and hopefully we will get to know you as you settle into your new homes.



# Village Hall

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The AGM was held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February when the existing committee members and officers were re-elected. It was disappointing that so few residents attended: one must assume that everyone is happy with what the hall provides. The chairman reported on the last year as follows:

The committee met six times during the year to carry out their function of maintaining the running of the hall. We also saw the retirement of Martin Matthews, a trustee, who moved out of the area.

The major objective achieved this year was the resurfacing of the car park, thanks to a grants of £10,000 from the National Lottery's "Awards for All" and £5,000 from Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund. An official opening was held on 30<sup>th</sup> September when our county councillor, John Aldridge, cut the tape. Bulbs have also been planted around the car park and are just beginning to show.

Apart from the car park this year has seen improvements to the drainage at the rear of the hall and the clearance of the scrub area, for which we must thank John Taylor, who not only provided the equipment but gave us his time for the day. Work is still to be done with some shrub planting around the electricity pole and the septic tank, but at the end we should have an attractive space for people using the hall to enjoy.

Whilst much has been accomplished there is still plenty to do, including work to the kitchen, the installation of baby changing facilities in the accessible toilet, and replacement heaters. All this is in addition to the regular painting and decorating. Nearly all the work is undertaken by volunteers with the committee to the forefront and they cannot be thanked enough for their effort.

Social events during the year included, of course, the fete at Wood Hall, which was very successful again - many thanks to Beryl, Norman and their family. There were also three whist drives and the Christmas coffee morning, all raising funds to help maintain the hall and to keep the hiring charges down.

My thanks go to the local groups that use the hall on a regular basis throughout the year, namely the carpet bowls, gardening and wine clubs, the WI (including their art group, Chignal4Art), and the parish council. To these can now be added the yoga class on Tuesday mornings. Please do support these groups, they are very much part of our community.

I finish by thanking, more than anybody, the committee for their support and for the work they put in to ensure we can keep the hall functioning to meet today's requirements, so providing a meeting point for all residents.

The Village Hall Committee, were very sad to learn of the recent death of Mr. Stephen Marriage. Mr. Marriage was a Trustee of the Chignals and Mashbury Village Hall for a period of over forty year, from 1958 until 2000, as well as taking an active part in Chignal Parish Council. His thoughtful advice and wise counsel were invaluable to both organisations and he always took a keen interest in all that was happening in our rural community. A real country Gentleman, he will be much missed.

## **GARDEN FETE & VINTAGE RALLY**

The village hall's annual Garden Fete and Vintage Rally will be held at Woodhall again this year on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 1 - 5pm. This is a fun day out for all the family with free entry and car parking. As well as the superb displays of vintage and steam driven vehicles and engines there will be lots of stalls including plants, cakes and books, games for all ages, including a coconut shy and bowling for the pig, and the rabbits will be making a return visit. An art exhibition will be housed in the conservatory where you can browse and buy works by local artists. Cream teas will be available throughout the afternoon. Your support of this event is always greatly appreciated; if anyone can assist in any way, even just for an hour on the day to help out on a stall, we'd like to hear from you - call Gordon Hillyear on (01245) 231406.

## **Volunteers Needed to help with the Village Fete**

You will appreciate that considerable work is involved in moving equipment from the Village Hall to Woodhall, erecting tents, laying out the stalls and indeed manning everything on the day, not forgetting reloading and transporting the equipment back to the Village Hall at the close of the Fete.

This event provides a sizeable income for the Hall which goes towards the general upkeep, insurance and maintenance etc, therefore allowing the Committee to keep the Hiring Fees at a reasonable level. Without the Fete the charges would have to rise and the future viability of the Hall become questionable.

So please, anyone who can lend a hand on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> or Friday 4<sup>th</sup> evenings or Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June, contact any of the following Committee members;

Gordon Hillyear	231406	Martyn Towns	440189	Cherry Scott	441241
Norman Wasteneay	440947	Kate Middleditch	440569	Ann Coates	441515
Gordon Lee	440485	Gill/Mick Cater	441484		
Janet Campen	440223	Norman Smith	440339		

# Women's Institute

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In February Dr. John Knight got our feet tapping with his talk on 'Ladies of Country Music'. It was appreciated that he included British singers as well as American.(eg. Olivia Newton-John, who we all thought was Australian!). The return visit of Mr. Dudley Chignall was a great success, this time he talked about 'Beatrix Potter' and showed us a remarkable collection of his photographs of the Lake District. Beatrix Potter left a vast acreage of land in the Lake District to the National Trust. Dudley had not only climbed most of the hills there but had also researched greatly into the life and work of the author. Some of Dudley's spectacular photographs were taken at dawn high in the hills. In the next few meetings we are looking forward to Mrs. Moira O'Conner's work in Homeopathy and Mr Terry Rockall telling us of the 'History of Fingerprints'. We have had some visitors to our meetings this year and it would be very nice to see more local people at the meetings, visitors are always welcome, that includes gentlemen, of course. On May 15th we are having a sale of various items as well as a get together, this will be called a **'Busy B' Morning with Bring & Buy, Bric-a-brac and Beverages!** Do come and join us for a coffee and chat, you might even find a **Bargain!** A donation from the proceeds of the Busy B morning will be sent to the Association of Country Women of the World which supports poorer families all over the world

**May 6th Resolutions followed by History of Fingerprints - Mr. Terry Rockall**

**There is a change of venue for this meeting**

**May 15th BUSY B Morning, Village Hall, 10am to 12noon**

**June 3rd Garden Party Flowers - Mrs. Myra Wilkins**

**July 3rd Garden Meeting**

Hope you can join us for some or all of these meetings, details Myra Wilkins 440 659



Chignall4Art. The art group continues to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, featured artists this year have been Van Gogh (Exhibition at Royal Academy), Roland Hilder (Winter Landscapes) and Faberge (Easter Eggs)

**Art Exhibition at the Village Fete June 5th.** Artists who have exhibited before will be sent an entry form, any new artists wishing to exhibit please contact Myra on 440 659

## Gardening Club

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There have been two meetings since the last edition. In a change to the original programme Darren Blunt gave us a whistle stop guide to the identification of conifers. Darren bought various samples, which were used for us to gain hands-on experience of identifying conifers by look, touch, smell and shape. The last meeting was the annual general meeting, followed by a quiz and plant swap. In the Summer, the club arranges various visits to local gardens; the details are below, so please join us if you have the time, you will be most welcome.

The Club runs a plant stall at the garden fete every year. This stall has been well stocked by Janet Campen over the years but Janet has decided to retire from running the stall, so if you have any flowering and/or vegetable plants that you would be willing to donate for this year's stall please contact John Denniss on 01245 440289

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

Visit to Dragons, Boyton Cross, Nr. Roxwell, Chelmsford

Meet at 7pm  
Cost : £3.00

### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010**

Visit to Beth Chatto Gardens  
Elmstead Market, Nr Colchester

Meet at 2pm  
Cost £5.00

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Visit to Hyde Hall, Rettendon, Chelmsford

Meet at 2pm  
Cost : £7.00 , RHS Members Free



## Wine Club

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The wine club met in February for the first time this year. Norman, our president, hosted an evening tasting supermarket wines. No particular theme had been chosen, with Norman taking “what he fancied” as he perused the supermarket shelves. There were mixed views on every wine we tasted that evening. While we all agreed none of the wines were bad, we did recognise that the wines we preferred matched our own personal tastes. It was agreed that with supermarkets employing professional buyers you are unlikely to get a bad bottle of wine, but you should always use your own judgement when assessing the “bargains” and BOGOF’s used to promote the wine.

March was a totally different evening, Simon Gotelee of Mentzendorff & Co. Ltd. presented an evening on Fortified wines. Simon had presented to the group before and had already explained how Port, Sherry and Madeira are made. On this occasion we were treated to many stories and anecdotes from his travels to vineyards and distilleries. Of course, all of the Port, Sherry and Madeira we tasted were excellent. Simon’s extensive knowledge also included advice on what the locals eat with these wines and I know many will be trying olives and tapas in the summer in line with his suggestions.

Thank you to both Norman and Simon for two very different but very enjoyable evenings.

The wine club meets on the second Friday of every month (except August). For more information please contact Dave on 01245 442474.



## Yoga

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January saw the introduction of the new yoga class at the village hall. The class is run by Sara McKeon who is a qualified Hatha yoga teacher. We meet every Tuesday during term time 9.15am – 10.45am

We do gentle exercises to improve and maintain our flexibility. Sara demonstrates varying degrees of difficulty/stretch for each exercise whilst explaining the associated benefits. We are all encouraged within the group environment but not pushed beyond our capabilities or feel the need to ‘keep up’ with others. We finish with relaxation at the end.

The class will continue in the village hall each Tuesday morning 9.15am – 10.45am 20<sup>th</sup> April – 20<sup>th</sup> July (no class 1<sup>st</sup> June). The cost is £4.50 per session with your first session free. If you would like to come along or are interested to find out more please do call Sara McKeon on 01245 358941 or Gill Thomas on 01245

## Bowls Club

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The club has had another successful year, both doing well in our friendly matches and making our presence felt in the area competitions. The internal club competitions were keenly played for, resulting in Bill Knight and Roy Smith winning the Ted Ball Cup, Audrey Smith winning the ladies singles and the men’s singles winner being Martyn Towns.

The club held its AGM on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March with seventeen members attending. Reports were heard from the chairman, secretary, treasurer and club captain, the committee for the coming year were then duly elected. The committee welcome Marian Butcher to its ranks and thank retiring member Yvonne Towns for her unstinting support over the past years in both the organisation of social events and the running of the club.

Friendly matches have been played both home and away against Barnston and RHP. Both home matches being won, but both away matches being lost - honours even! Our next friendly match is against Leaden Roding in April followed by an external competition at Wimbish.

Target bowls starts again in April, giving the members the chance to win a bottle of wine each month until our internal competitions recommence in October. Ann Coates.

## Neighbourhood Action Panel

The Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP) meetings are held by Essex Police under each Neighbourhood. The local policing team hold the meetings and these consist of an 'Open Panel', this 'panel' is made up of local community representatives. The panel will prioritise local issues and seek to problem solve these issues from within the communities. A Maximum of three priorities are then set, please look on the 'Essex Police Web Home page'. These meetings are open for the first half hour for local people to raise their concerns, voice their opinions and then for the 'panel' to set priorities so action can be taken and targeted.

Your rural community needs you!

The next meeting will be held at Good Easter. Good Easter Village hall on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 19:00hrs.

I look forward to meeting you. PCSO Gina Bennett Contact Details:

mobile – 07817 454884, direct line 01245 212566, normal number 0300 333 4444.

## Village Clean-Up on March 20<sup>th</sup>

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank all those who supported the clean-up. We had an excellent turnout at the Village Hall. This is a worthwhile job that benefits the village. Gordon Lee.



## *Music for a Summer's Evening*

*St Nicholas' Church  
Chignal Smealy*

*Sunday 4th July 2010, 6pm*

*An evening of beautiful music for all.*

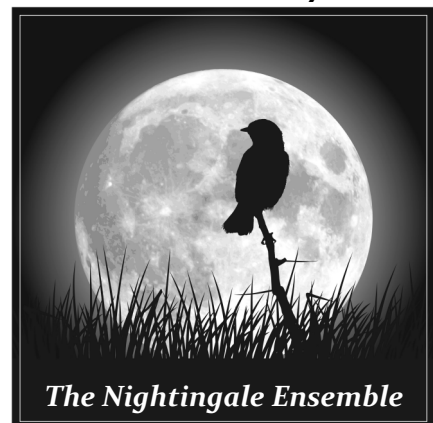
*From Bach and Mozart to Gershwin and Lloyd-Webber*

*Concert begins 6pm,  
followed by a complimentary drinks reception.*

**Tickets : Adults £10, under 16s £5**

*All proceeds to both Farleigh Hospice  
and Cassie's Wishing Well Appeal*

**Performed by**



*The Nightingale Ensemble*

**For Information and tickets contact : Tony Towns (01245) 440241 or Stephen Smart 440666**

# Essex County Council

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Some of you may have heard of the new **Village Agents** Scheme that is being piloted in the **Broomfield & Writtle Division**; funded by the **Essex County Council**, the Braintree Local Strategic Partnership and NHS Mid-Essex and delivered by the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE). **Village Agents** will be responsible for assisting isolated or disadvantaged older people in rural communities to access information and services such as, understanding welfare benefits, gaining access to local social groups, volunteering, leisure and learning, fire safety in the home, health, travel and social services. The role of the **Village Agents** will compliment the work of County, District and Borough Councillors, Parish Councils, as well as Parish Clerks. It is hoped that the Scheme will expand into many other villages within the Division. The **Village Agent** for **Chignal St James, Chignal Smealey, Good Easter, Mashbury and Pleshey** is **Jo Metson** [jo.metson@vaessex.org.uk](mailto:jo.metson@vaessex.org.uk) and **Brenda Smith** covers **Highwood** [brenda.smith@vaessex.org.uk](mailto:brenda.smith@vaessex.org.uk). The pilot Scheme is scheduled to last until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. If it is successful and attracts further funding, it is intended that it be implemented throughout **Essex**. To learn more about the Scheme call free on **0800 9775858** or email [enquiries@vaessex.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@vaessex.org.uk)

Now that Spring has sprung it is not too early to evaluate the lessons learned from the **County Council's International Snow Summit** that took place in March. Its findings are now being reviewed at County Hall in order that best practice can be employed to ensure that the County's major road network and bus routes can be kept free of snow and ice. Perhaps, as important, is what can be done to assist local residents and Borough / Parish Councils to ensure that pavements in our towns and villages can be made safer, to help prevent the unacceptable number of personal accidents that occurred in last winter's freezing conditions.

Whilst the **County Council** always strives to achieve the best for the residents of **Essex**, it is good to know that its **Adult Community Learning (ACL)** service joined a select minority of excellent providers for learning and skills in March, when they were awarded the prestigious national accolade of **Beacon Award Status**. Beacon Authorities are a source of expertise and have agreed to, and willingly, share this expertise and good practice with other organisations. Essex was nominated by Ofsted for outstanding leadership and management. Proposed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the **Beacon Award** recognises outstanding service and professionalism. One of the judges commented "In today's economic climate, the more we can all do to promote and celebrate the excellence that exists in the learning and skills sector, the better". As they say in the adverts "every little bit helps"!

If you have any problems about **Essex County Council** matters please let me know on 01245 421524 or

[Cllr.John.Aldridge@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.John.Aldridge@essexcc.gov.uk) Cllr. John Aldridge – May 2010

## North Melbourne Library

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North Melbourne Library re-opened on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March after being closed for 5 weeks for some essential maintenance work. We now have our own automatic entrance at the front of the building and have a new designated area for our computers. Our large counter has been changed for a smaller modern design and we have had new carpet throughout and a new modern layout. Why not come along and take a look!

Would you be interested in joining a daytime book club held in the Library? If you enjoy reading then you'll find discussing a book a great way to get more out of your reading experience.

During the Spring Half Term we will be having a '**Bedtime Stories**' session on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 6.00-6.30- bring your pillow and a soft toy and listen to some bedtime stories! For 7 year olds and under, accompanied by a parent/guardian. And on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June we will be having a **Go Wild event** in the library from 1pm – 3pm. There will be lots of activities and stories around bugs as well as some surprise periodic appearances from bug characters!

Looking forwards we would like to remind all young people of our Summer Reading Challenge which starts on 24<sup>th</sup> July. This year's theme is Space Hop and we will have lots of fun things to do in the library. We are pleased to offer the opportunity of joining one week earlier at North Melbourne Library on Sat 17<sup>th</sup> July.

As well as books we have DVD's to hire, stories to listen to, Newspapers/Magazines and free Internet Access as well as a whole host of other online services.

Mandy Simioni – Library Supervisor, North Melbourne Library (Attached to Newland Spring School), Dickens Place, Copperfield Place, Chelmsford. Tel: 01245 442292

# Bus to Basics

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Have you ever wondered at what times the 17/18 bus goes or wondered how you could use it to get to a general store or cash machine? The Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) is working in partnership with Essex County Council (ECC) to try to find ways of promoting local bus routes and encouraging local residents to make the most of them to access basic services.

Many rural communities in Essex believe that they are unable to access basic services such as general stores, cash machines and Post Offices using public transport. While this is true in many instances part of a recent study has shown that this feeling of rural isolation is often a result of not knowing where the local bus goes to or what basic services they could access using the same bus.

As a result RCCE and ECC have produced a revolutionary new mapping system for local bus routes. In addition to the standard bus timetable the new 'Route maps to key services' leaflets carry a map of the bus route indicating with simple symbols the services that can be accessed.



Mashbury and the Chignals are served by the 17/18 bus which runs on four days a week to Chelmsford town centre. The new bus map can be obtained from Jo Metson, Village Agent, on 07540 720609

## Mashbury Parish Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010

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Mashbury Parish held a meeting at the new, for us, venue of Chignal Village Hall and were pleased to welcome Cllr John Aldridge, Jo Metson our Village Agent and Chris Philpot who farms at Mashbury Hall as guests. Chris was subsequently asked to join the meeting as a substantive member, in recognition of the important role he plays in Parish life.

Jo Metson described the valuable role which Village Agents play in providing people with information and support to enable independence, which are not usually available in rural areas. Jo can help with a huge range of needs from how to obtain bus passes and smoke alarms to checking that all allowances are being claimed. Jo can be reached on 07540 720609.

A small team of residents has volunteered to be available to help Chignal volunteers in the event of one of the Emergency Rest Centres having to be opened.

There have been several queries regarding shooting on Farm land as residents are sometimes concerned that either the shooting or the way it is being managed may not be safe or legal. Shooting on Mashbury Hall land is let and the Farm Manager, Kevin Beard will know what shooting should be taking place. Kevin can be contacted on 07876 443308 if anyone has concerns. The farm is also aware that hare coursing is happening and would welcome a call if this is witnessed, when the Police will be immediately brought in.

Jo Metson agreed to enquire about progress on re-fixing the Pleshey arm of the signpost at the foot of Smallshoes Hill as this has now been logged with Highways since early January.

Cllr Aldridge advised that the status of Protected Lanes has been downgraded in the Chelmsford borough area and this will be checked with the Essex CC team who were responsible. The detail of Planning permission for the new grain barn on Mashbury Road, Great Waltham will also be checked as large grain lorries are unable to turn easily into the Farm Road from the narrow public road. Residents are encouraged to report Highways problems direct by using the on-line facility which can be found on the homepage of Essex CC website - [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk).

The meeting expressed sympathy to all involved in the recent fire at the stables at Mashbury Hall. It was noted that vigilance by residents enabled the people concerned to be apprehended.

The report by the Essex Rural Commission lists a number of very relevant recommendations on development of rural areas. Cllr Aldridge will advise Parish Councils which have been identified as a priority. Moira will ask Chelmsford BC about any plans to change to fortnightly black bin collections as these now have very little in them.

Moira Tarrant  
Chair, Mashbury Parish Meeting

# Chignal Parish Council

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UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A parishioner complained about the condition of the verges, ditches and hedges in the Parish. Other residents complained about flooding in Pengymill Lane caused by the waste in the landfill site and also flooding on the bend near the Three Elms. The Chairman suggested that all parishioners worried about these conditions should contact Essex County Council website to report on any areas of concern. Questions were asked on why a retrospective planning application had been submitted for the ménage and floodlights at Dyers Hall and it was explained that retrospective applications are not an unusual procedure.

PCSO Gina Bennett attended the meeting and explained that it had not been possible to obtain a speed gun to check on the speed of motorists in Chignal Smealey but in the future, checks will be made on a regular basis. Gina reported that there had been a case of arson in the Parish, nobody had been hurt and the culprits have been apprehended.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Telephone Box – It was confirmed that the Parish Council will be purchasing the kiosk in Chignal St.James.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – The Chairman has attended a Neighbourhood Policy meeting and the next meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at Good Easter Village Hall when speeding and burglaries will be on the agenda.

## SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLAYING FIELDS - the hedge surrounding the playing field has been cut.

NEWSLETTER INCL. WEBSITE – the latest edition of the Newsletter has been distributed with the deadline for the editor receiving articles for the next Newsletter being the end of March.

GRAVEL LIAISON – it was reported that there has been no liaison meeting since January and there is still a problem with the culvert in Pengymill Lane in spite of some surface dressing being undertaken. The Clerk will contact Lafarge again asking when further work is to be undertaken on the culvert. The problems with the ditch behind St. James' Church are

ongoing and the ownership of the ditch needs to be established before any work to resolve the problems can be undertaken.

FOOTPATHS /BRIDLEWAYS – three walks by Councillors have now been completed and Essex County Council has been advised of the findings and has agreed to provide any equipment necessary to rectify problems.

HIGHWAYS – more problems were reported particularly between Langleys and the Church and the problems have been reported to the Highways Department.

VDS – the finished article will be with the printers in the next few weeks.

## COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

C. Cllr. Aldridge explained that salt bins can be purchased through the County Council or Parishes can make their own arrangements for the purchase with the salt being provided by the local authority.

## PLANNING

The Old Rectory – entrance gates and railings – the application was approved.

Maple View – detached garage and rear conservatory – the application was refused.

Chignal Hall – single storey side extension – application approved

Importation of sand and gravel at Landfill Quarry – application pending

Dyers Hall – retrospective application for ménage and floodlights – pending

The Bungalow – demolition and erection of new dwelling – decision pending

Pieces Cottage – appeal against enforcement notice re marquee, gates and posts – decision awaited.

## LATE URGENT BUSINESS

Electoral Role – some discrepancies have been reported to the Borough Council.

Council Tax – clarification was requested on the contents included in 'special expenses' highlighted in the latest information on the council tax for 2010/2011.

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010.



# Chignal Parish Council Annual Meeting

Report of the Chignal Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010 in the Village Hall

The meeting was well attended by Parish Councillors, a County Councillor, Borough Councillor and 20 parishioners and was chaired by Mr. Chris Philpot.

MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009 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 and Linda Nelson the editor of the Parish Newsletter and her band of helpers who made sure that parishioners received their copies regularly. He also thanked the two local councillors John Aldridge and Nicolette Chambers for their help and guidance and the police for their presence at Parish Council meetings. The Chairman reported that the planning application for gravel extraction and the formation of a reservoir opposite the village hall had been refused.

Councillors have completed three walks of footpaths in the Parish and will be working with Essex County Council to improve some footpaths and alter others. Highways in the Parish have been an ongoing problems and have been reported to the appropriate Department for action to be taken.

## CLUB REPORTS -

CHIGNAL & MASHBURY GARDENING CLUB – it was reported that the Club has had another successful year with talks covering a wide range of topics. Outings in the Summer included a trip to Saling Hall, the Glen Chantry and the Spencer family's house in Great Yeldam. Membership continues to increase, attendance at meetings is very good and new members are always welcome.

BOWLS CLUB – the Club is thriving with the membership now 26. Internal and friendly matches have been played against local clubs with excellent results having won 10 and lost 4 of the matches played.

WOMENS INSTITUTE – Myra Wilkins, the President, reported that there had been a variety of speakers throughout the year with talks on Royal Garden Parties, the 1940's and a Victorian Christmas. A speaker called Mr. Chignall gave an excellent talk on the 'Colourful Azores' and was so much appreciated by members that a return visit was booked for 2010. Attendance at meetings has been good but unfortunately no new members have been recruited this year so anyone considering joining would be given a very warm welcome.

The Art Group continues to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month and is open to everyone with beginners being particularly welcome.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Tony Wilkins, the area co-ordinator, thanked the local volunteers for regularly distributing the bulletins throughout the year. He warned parishioners to beware of telephone or e-mail predators asking for personal details and were also advised to keep car keys out of sight with vehicles securely locked. A new scheme has been introduced called 'message in a bottle' to alert visitors, including the emergency services, to an elderly persons medical history so the harmful drugs are not prescribed, the bottles are available from the co-ordinator.

CRICKET CLUB – It was reported that both teams had a fairly successful season last year with both finishing fourth in their respective leagues. Six trophies have been awarded and the new season will begin on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Fixture cards are available from Linda Bird on 01245 262279 with news about the Club being available on [chignal.play-cricket.com](http://chignal.play-cricket.com)

WINE DISCOVERY GROUP – Membership for 2009 has now risen to 36 with the majority of the members being parishioners. Members meet on a monthly basis (except August) with presentations from independent experts and individuals from within the group. The annual membership fee is £15 with £7.50 for each tasting evening attended.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH – Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council and to St. Mary's Church, Broomfield for their continuing support. A concert is being held on 4<sup>th</sup> July with the start time to be confirmed at a later date.

CHIGNAL CHAPEL - Sunday services commence at 10.45 a.m. to which everyone is cordially invited with special services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. There is no longer a Sunday school but it will be reintroduced should there be a need and coffee mornings are held on the third Wednesday of each month from 10.30 – 12 noon. Offerings at the village carol service were split between Little Havens Hospice and St. Lawrence Childrens' Hospice in Romania.

VDS – Work started on the VDS in 2005 to produce an advisory document for planners, designers, developers and local people. At last the final draft is expected to be delivered to printers within the next few weeks. When printed, copies will be distributed to every household in the Parish and an official launch in the Village Hall is proposed. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for all its support and encouragement.

FINANCE – the accounts for 2009/10 were available for inspection. A volunteer to take on the role of internal auditor was requested.

## VILLAGE CLEAN-UP DAY

The Clean-Up day will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 9 a.m. from either the Village Hall or Woodhall Farm.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- A Whist Drive will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.
- A bric-a-brace sale will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May by the Women's Institute in the Village Hall.
- The Village Fete will be held at Woodhall Farm on 5<sup>th</sup> June.
- The Women's Institute has arranged a quiz in the Village Hall for 1<sup>st</sup> October.
- A race night will be held in the Village Hall in October for the Cricket Club.
- Emergency Planning – Volunteers are needed in the event of an emergency when the centres are opened. It was explained that the Borough will provide professional services but local helpers will also be required.

DATE OFF NEXT MEETING - The next Annual Parish meeting was arranged for 8 p.m. on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011 in the Village Hall.

# St. Nicholas' Church

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Greetings to you all from St. Nicholas Church. We are sure, like us, you are pleased to have warmer days, bringing with it patches of colour in our garden. Colour lights up our personalities, however, life at times can be very dark, filled with sorrow, loneliness or maybe ill health or poverty, the list is endless. Through the covenant of the rainbow, we have a brilliant array of colour, which reminds us that God is always with us.

We recently had our annual general meeting. All three officers have volunteered to serve for another year, Myra Wilkins as secretary, Gregg Polack as treasurer and myself as church warden.

We enjoyed a mothering Sunday family service. Julia Smart played for us and each of the ladies received primroses.

We are very much looking forward to our concert. Tickets will be available at the fete or can be obtained by phoning Steve Smart or Tony Towns (see separate advert for more details). We encourage you to

buy in advance as tickets are limited. Bring your friends and family, it promises to a lovely new venture. A feast of music for the entire family.

We look forward to seeing many of you in and around the parish.

Tony Towns Church Warden (Tel 440241)







Dates for your Diary

Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Concert in St. Nicholas Church

A service every Sunday at 11 a.m.

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