

No. 147  
May 2011



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

# Chignal News

## Village Photo Shop Bowls Club



## Book Club



The photograph was taken at the last meeting was held at Ann's house, at which the book *Madame Bovary* by Gustav Flaubert was dicussed.

Left to Right

Margaret Caisley - Joan Smith - Lesley Newell - Sandra Bailey - Ann Salmon - Angela Bensley - Maggie Randall - Frankie Bass

## Editorial by Linda Nelson

What a busy 2 months it has been, what with Easter and the Royal Wedding. Thankfully, the weather has been fabulous. I was very glad of that, as I stood in the crowds along the Mall on the Day. We had a fabulous time and it made me very proud to be British and be part of it, I believe we were briefly on the TV too, but I didn't get to see myself and Graham's sister Margaret cheering madly at the happy couple.

On another note, there has been an election, although as there were insufficient candidates, no ballot was required, we now have a new Parish Council which will be "sworn" in at the next meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> May, so please come along to the meeting as we have two new councillors: Julia Smart and Malcolm Feltwell. We also need another councillor as three former councillors have resigned: Geoff, Will and Tony. If you want to make a difference, please consider becoming a councillor. If you come along on the 16<sup>th</sup> May and wish to become a councillor please let us know.

**Chignal Village Hall**

GARDEN FETE

&

VINTAGE RALLY

at

**Wood Hall, Chignal  
Smealey**

on

**Saturday 4th June  
1 pm to 5 pm**

**A FUN DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY  
FREE ADMISSION!**

# Women's Institute

---

We were delighted to have two new members join us in February. Sue Browning is from Broomfield and Jill Pearson is from Great Baddow. They are both friends of Janet, they came along to one meeting, liked it and immediately joined. This has given us quite a boost as we sadly lost members last year. In February we had a talk by Trevor Myatt from Witham about the work of the Street Pastors. The pastors are a Christian based group who do not preach or try to convert; their prime concern is the welfare of people on the streets from midnight to 4am. They have radio contact with the police, they are not allowed to get involved with disputes, and they are around to help calm situations. Trevor was a very unassuming man doing very brave voluntary work. In March we heard about the work of 'Hearing Help Essex' Anita and Sarah from this organisation explained the various ways in which they can help, Anita took us into the silent world of the deaf with a demonstration of lip reading. We felt very privileged to hear about the Street Pastors and Hearing Help. Recently seventeen members enjoyed a friendship lunch at the Pig and Whistle, This was excellent, good food well presented. Apologies to other people there that day, we were rather noisy! This month (April) we are looking forward to hearing about a journey into print by author Mr Patrick Forsyth. May 12<sup>th</sup> (one week later than usual) We will discuss the two resolutions that the Nation Federation will put to the government. One will express opposition to the establishment of Mega Farms where 20,000 cows are kept in massive barns and not grazed on grass; the second one will oppose library closures. So if you feel strongly on these issues come along.

June 7<sup>th</sup> Garden Meeting, if you would like to come along to a garden in Good Easter let us know.

July 7<sup>th</sup> 'The magic and beauty of precious stones' Mr David Vroobell

Visitors always welcome

Myra Wilkins (440 659)



Art Group.

The Art Group continues with a few new people which is very good. One afternoon was dominated by crochet work (we look at the wider art forms!) and at the last meeting, as well as some very skilled flower painting, we looked at the history of Jasper ware with many examples and books. Beginners and experienced artists welcome. Details from Myra as above.

# Gardening Club

---

There have been two meetings since the last edition. The March meeting was a talk on Herbs and Healing Plants by Nik Mennie. This was very interesting and we all learnt some useful properties of some common plants. The last meeting was the annual general meeting. Graham Andrew stood down as secretary and Lynn Ballard agreed to stand as secretary. The evening was well attended and became very competitive as we split into three teams and were mentally challenged by Mary Jane's fiendish 3 round quiz.

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, 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 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Visit to Olivers, Olivers Lane, Colchester, CO2 0HJ. Meet at 7pm, Cost: £4.00 Tea & Biscuits included

## Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Visit to Feeringbury Manor, Coggeshall Rd, Feering CO5 9RB. Meet at 7pm, Cost: £7.00 Tea & Cake in-

## Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011

Club Supper, Pengymill. Meet at 7pm, Cost: £TBC

## Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Orchard Cottage, 219 Hockley Road, Rayleigh, SS6 8BH. Meet at 7pm, Cost: £5.00 Refreshments incl.

# Wine Club

---

The Group met on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 at the Village Hall and it is very pleasing to report that the attendance was a healthy one with 24 members present.

We were treated to a "Master Class" entitled "Wines I Will Miss" by Matthew Edwards as he is returning to Sydney, Australia with his wife Jenny and daughter Molly May on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

Matthew and Jenny have been Members of the Group since 2005 when they arrived in the UK.

Until recently, Matthew was employed by Majestic Wines in Chelmsford and all of the members agreed that the store has never been quite the same since he left !

Matthew imparted not only his considerable knowledge of the seven wines that he chose to share with us but also a) his general knowledge of the countries/regions of origin, b) the various grape varieties and c) the processes involved in the production of the wines.

## The seven wines tasted were as follows : -

A Langlois Cremant de Loire (Saumur) Brut NV from France @ £9.99

A 2008 Phillippe Zinck Grand Cru Riesling from Alsace @ £11.99

A 2009 Chablis Premier Cru "Montmains" Vocoret from France @ £13.99

A 2009 Reserve Rouge Cotes du Rhone (Perrin) from France @ £7.49

A 2005 Rioja Reserva CVNE from Spain @ £10.99

A 1996 Clos du Marquis from Saint Julien (Bordeaux) France @ £49.99

A 2001 Taylor's (Single) Quinta de Vargellas Vintage Port @ 26.99



The Group certainly appreciated the diversity of wines presented and tasted in addition to the fact that two of them were in a price range normally reserved for a Premium tasting evening.

The general consensus amongst the Members was that the one sparkling and two white wines tasted offered tremendous value.

The three red wines tasted were marginally better received with the majority favouring the well balanced 2005 CVNE Rioja Reserva and the splendid second wine from Chateau Leoville Las Cases (in the often underrated Saint Julien region of Bordeaux) Clos du Marquis 1996.

The star of the evening though was kept until last as Matthew treated the Group to a bottle of 2001 Taylor's (Single) Quinta de Vargellas Vintage Port which he first sampled last year whilst on a personal visit to Oporto in Portugal. At £26.99 it represented exceptional value for such a quality fortified wine.

At the end of the Presentation, Chairman Norman Smith proposed a sincere vote of thanks to Matthew who had provided a splendid tasting to the Group of such a diverse selection of quality wines.

# Bowls Club

---

Our Finals Night was held on 15th March. The Mens' Finals Match was played between Pete Butcher and Kevin Francis with Pete being the winner. This was followed by the Ladies' Singles Match between Yvonne Towns and Ann Coates, with Ann being the winner. After this we had a buffet of cheese and biscuits with wine.

The Club held its AGM on 22nd March which was well attended. The evening began with the match for the Bill Hawkes Trophy between the winner of the Mens Singles and the winner of the Ladies' Singles. The winner was Pete and the Trophy was presented to him by Helen Hawkes. Presentation of the other Trophies followed, the Mens' Singles to Pete, the Ladies' Singles to Ann and the Ted Ball Cup to Ann and Geoff. After this we all assembled for the annual Club photo. Then followed the AGM.

The Officers elected were, Ann Coates- Chairman, Geoff Coates- Captain, Gordon Hillyear - Secretary, and Marian Butcher as Treasurer. Three other members of the Committee were elected - Sheila Evans, Kathleen Huggett, and a new member to the Committee, Janet Campen.

A Friendly match was played away at RHP which we won, for the first time in many years - well done all! Our next match is at home to Leaden Roding.



# Wine Club Part Two

---

The Group met on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 at the Village Hall and it is pleasing to report that the attendance was a very healthy one with 27 members present.

We were treated to an interesting and educational Presentation by Ben Stevens from "Wine 2 Lay Down" entitled "Old World v New World".

As reported last month, Matthew and Jenny Edwards (not forgetting their charming daughter Molly May) are returning to Sydney, Australia on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2011 after being members of the Group for over six years and it was great to see them both present at what will be their last attendance – for the time being anyway !

Ben Stevens may be an Accountant by profession, but he certainly knew his way around the wine producing business even offering tips from within the Trade from a buying perspective as he imparted considerable knowledge about the subject especially "going back to basics" when it came to tasting.

In addition to his chosen profession, he runs the business "Wine 2 Lay Down" in conjunction with his wife and he not only demonstrated his considerable knowledge of the seven wines that he chose to share with us but also a) his general knowledge of the countries/regions of origin, b) the various grape varieties and c) the processes involved in the production of the wines.

## **The seven wines tasted were as follows : -**

A 2009 Cremant de Bourgogne Brut Blanc NV from France @ £11.00

A 2010 Guy Allion Sauvignon Blanc from France @ £7.50

A 2010 Tinpot Hut Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand (Marlborough) @ £10.00

A 2009 Adobe Carmenere from Chile @ £7.00

A 2006 Chateau Turcaud from France (Bordeaux) @ £7.75

A 2009 Alpha Zeta Valpolicella from Italy @ £7.00

A 2006 Amarone Classico Allegrini from Italy @ £44.50

The Group certainly appreciated the wines presented and tasted as they allowed a good comparison to be made between the Old World (France/Italy) and the New World (New Zealand and Chile).

In addition, the prices of four of the wines were extremely competitive with two others still within most people's budget.

The price of the final wine offered was not divulged until after the tasting to test the Group's knowledge of an absolute blockbuster Amarone from Italy !

We were not disappointed with the quality of the wine and most members estimated that it would cost between £30 and £40 per bottle. Ben informed us that it is actually retailed at £44.50 which although expensive by comparison to the other wines, did not come as a great surprise.

At the end of the Presentation, Chairman Norman Smith proposed a sincere vote of thanks to Ben who had provided an insight into not only the tasting of wines but also the merchandising of wines from the Buyer's perspective.

This was endorsed by the Members with acclamation.

The Chairman then addressed the Group regarding the pending departure for Sydney of Matthew, Jenny and their daughter Molly May. Norman said that it had been an absolute pleasure to have them as members and that they would be sorely missed by everyone.

He spoke of the warmth, love and affection that the members had developed for all three of them and on behalf of everyone, wished them "Bon Voyage" and every best wish for the future back in their homeland.

In conclusion, Norman presented Matthew and Jenny with a memento of their time as members of the Group in the form of a book entitled "Essex from the Air" by Jason Hawkes.

Matthew responded in the time honoured fashion and said that both he and Jenny had enjoyed the last six years immensely and had made so many new friends that it was going to be quite a wrench leaving the UK.

Still, with air travel being what it is these days, the world is becoming a much smaller place and no doubt our paths will cross once again in the not too distant future.

"We'll meet again ....."

## **Next Month : -**

The Group continue to meet on the second Friday of every month throughout the year with the exception of August.

The next Tasting will be on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2011 commencing at 8.00pm in The Village Hall.

Anyone who is interested in joining or attending should contact the Honorary Secretary Dave Thomas on 01245 442474.

# Essex County Council

---

## Big Society Fund

For all those Parish Councils and Community Groups that have applied to the **County Council** for community project funding, there has been a change of name to the **Big Society Fund**. It builds on the success of the **County Council's** Community Initiatives Fund, Retail Enterprise Fund and Making the Links Project Fund, and is designed to:

- create or develop new community assets;
- enhance existing community assets;
- create or sustain initiatives and services that strengthen communities in Essex towns and villages.

The **Big Society Fund** has been developed to be more flexible and responsive to the needs of the community as it now allows for some grants to be given quickly to meet immediate needs while placing over 50% of awards under the control of local communities. There will be three pathways to funding viz:

- Big Society Community Fund (capital)
- Quick Response Capital Funding
- Quick Response Revenue Funding

To apply to the **Big Society Fund**, please contact the **County Council's Grant Coordinator** on [01245 437 887](tel:01245437887) or complete an **Expression of Interest Form** and email or post it back to the **Grant Coordinator**. Full details of the **Big Society Grant Fund** can be found in the **Guidance Document** on the ECC website [www.essex.gov.uk/big-society-fund](http://www.essex.gov.uk/big-society-fund)

## Responsibility for Concessionary Fares to Transfer

At the end of last year the **County Council** announced that it was taking over the management of concessionary travel for the over 60's and disabled people in Essex. This new arrangement started on 1st April and the **County Council** has been working closely with District and Borough Councils to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible for residents. As well as the statutory minimum requirements set out by the Department for Transport, the pass will also have two discretionary elements viz:

- Free travel between 9am and midnight from Monday to Friday and all day at weekends and on Bank Holidays
- A companion pass (for holders with severe disabilities) to allow free travel on registered local bus services for one extra person accompanying them

Existing pass holders can continue using their passes as normal and they will remain valid until the expiry date on the front of the pass. Renewals and new passes can be obtained by collecting application forms from Chelmsford Borough Council who will continue to process application forms and deal with queries. Chelmsford Borough Council's Concessionary Fares Office can be contacted on [01245 606400](tel:01245606400).

If you have any problems about **County Council** matters please let me know on [01245 421524](tel:01245421524) or [cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk)

**Cllr. John Aldridge** - April 2011

# Mashbury Parish Meeting

---

A meeting of Mashbury Parish took place on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 and was very well attended. Gina Bennett, PCSO for the rural area north of Chelmsford introduced herself and gave advice on both avoiding scams and on reporting concerns. She emphasised that the Police are also grateful to receive reports of suspicious behaviour, particularly if there are other details such as descriptions of people, vehicle registrations, places and times.

The meeting discussed how best to distribute Neighbourhood Watch information and it was agreed that Mashbury would use the Police direct e-mail service. If you wish to receive regular updates on local crime, contact me with your e-mail address and I will ensure that the Police add your name to the distribution list.

Jo Metson, Village Agent for the area confirmed that the project is to continue past the initial pilot period which ends in March 2011. Jo currently has information on the Television Digital switchover as well as the other services and contacts she can offer and can be contacted on 07540 720609.

The meeting heard from Chris Philpot about the five-year plan to re-invigorate local hedgerows through coppicing. This work has already started to improve wildlife habitats elsewhere on the farm, where it was carried out two or three years ago. It was confirmed that

resident's concerns regarding the condition of verges and ditches following the work had been addressed and these have now been tidied. Chris also emphasised that any concerns such as mud left on roads should be raised with him and he will deal with them as soon as possible. Concern was also raised about the current vulnerability of the Salvation Army Hall and car park to misuse as it is standing empty. MT will contact the Salvation Army and alert them to local concerns.

The meeting was briefed on attempts over the winter to get salt grit provided locally so that residents can treat Smallshoes Hill. Until the Highways Dept gives information on what scheme they will offer, we are unable to move forward.

As usual, several residents volunteered to carry out a litter-pick along a stretch of road and we are all grateful to them for their hard work. The meeting was also grateful to Cllrs John Aldridge and Nicolette Chambers who were able to join us for the first part of the evening.

Moira Tarrant, Chair,  
Mashbury Parish Meeting  
01245 231437 [m.tarrant@virgin.net](mailto:m.tarrant@virgin.net)

## Community News

---

### Village Clean-Up

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank everyone who turned out for the clean-up. We had on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Pleasing to see some new faces and things went off very well.

### Book Club

The Chignal Book Club met for the first time as a group at Lesley Newell's house on 27th March 2006. It was on this date that our first book was chosen collectively from a number of books that Lesley had suggested.

The first book chosen was Ugly by Constance Briscoe. This was discussed in May 2006 so this year will be our 5th anniversary.

So far we have read and discussed 33 books.

A book club is a good way for us to read books that we wouldn't otherwise have picked from the shelf and has proved to be very successful.

Our group is full at present but if anyone wishes to be put on the waiting list Lesley can be contacted on 01245 445132

# Chignal Parish Council

---

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2011 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions were asked regarding overflowing ditches in the Parish and it was explained that all ditches under the roads are the responsibility of ECC with all other ditches, the responsibility of the landowners. Complaints were made about mounds of earth surrounding ditches in some areas and it was explained that these will be levelled in the next few months. Reservations were expressed that mud will be carried on to the road causing a dangerous hazard for motorists.

It was reported that the ditch near Saracens has been dug too deeply causing a dangerous situation when two vehicles pass the spot at the same time.

The Highways Department will be contacted requesting that the culvert and the ditch under the road between Rose Cottage and the Rectory be cleared. Landowners will be contacted on other areas of concern where ditches are overflowing.

A request was made by a parishioner for the cardboard collection to be increased to a fortnightly basis but Councillor Chambers explained that it would be too expensive to increase collection times.

The two PCSO's at the meeting explained that there has been an increase in crime in the area, including the theft of lead from the roof at St. Nicholas Church and the removal of farm machinery. It was confirmed that PCSO's will remain in post for the next two years but no funding is available after that.

## COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor John Aldridge reported that the Park and Ride at Regiment Way will be open in four weeks time. He also explained that government funding is available for the repair of potholes and Parishes should apply if financial support is required. Councillor Aldridge explained that the travellers in Basildon have been issued with a 28 day notice to leave the site and would be moving to unauthorised sites. Any problems should be reported to either him or Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Nicolette Chambers reported that a series of robberies have taken place in the area in the last week by people in a white van with false number plates and parishioners were asked to be vigilant and report anything suspicious. Councillor Chambers confirmed that the Council Tax would not be increased this year.

## SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – it was reported that consideration is being given to improving the kitchen area.

NEWSLETTER INCL. WEBSITE – the editor would welcome up to date information for the website.

GRAVEL LIAISON – an informal meeting has taken place to finalise progress. It was reported that the Cemex Plant is still being removed and progress is being monitored by the Planning Department.

Additional gas wells and pipework will be available for the landfill site next week which should alleviate the problem with odours. The infilling of 7 cells has been programmed but there is a shortage of waste on site at present and Lafarge is trying to rectify the problem to complete the work. The next liaison meeting will be held at 10.30 a.m. on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

VILLAGE WATCH – as a temporary measure, any incidents should be reported to the Chairman.

HIGHWAYS – it was reported that edges of some roads are breaking up with potholes forming in various areas of the Parish.

FOOTPATHS /BRIDLEWAYS – it was agreed to purchase copies of the definitive map for display in the new notice boards.

## PLANNING

Forge Cottage – Replacement outbuilding to form accommodation – application approved.

NOTICE BOARDS – A sample of the new boards was on display and it was reported that the new locations for two of the boards has been agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Correspondence has been received that all parish clerks salaries will be subject to PAYE from April 2011 and further information has been requested.

## LATE URGENT BUSINESS

It was agreed to defer the talk by the Emergency Planning Officer until the July meeting.

A suggestion was made that, to cut costs for fuel, parishioners consider buying in bulk. An item will be included in the Newsletter asking if a group of parishioners would be interested in buying fuel in this way.

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011.



# Chignal Parish Council Annual Meeting

Unconfirmed Report of the Chignal Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011 in the Village Hall. The meeting was well attended by Parish Councillors, a County Councillor, Borough Councillor and 16 parishioners and was chaired by Mr. Chris Philpot.

MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010 were read, agreed and signed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their continuing support together with thanks to the two local councillors John Aldridge and Nicolette Chambers for their help and guidance. Linda Nelson and the distributors of the Parish Newsletter were thanked for their contributions in getting copies to all parishioners and David Lomas was thanked for taking on the role as internal auditor. A police presence at meetings throughout the year was also greatly appreciated.

The Village Design Statement has been completed in the last year, approved by the Borough Council and distributed to residents throughout the Parish. Thanks were expressed to the Committee for all its hard work in this fine achievement.

The Chairman reported that the telephone kiosk in Chignal St. James is now owned by the Parish Council and suggestions for its use were requested.

Highways have been resurfaced throughout the Parish and engineering works carried out between Dyers and the Church. There have been some changes to the footpath definitive map in the last year.

The Chairman thanked Martyn Towns for investigating the 'special expenses' paid by Chignal residents and explained that a lower Council tax will be paid by parishioners for 2011/12 because the 'expenses' will be less than in previous years as charges will not be made for cutting the grass at Howletts Corner.

The Village Fete will be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June and thanks were expressed to the Village Hall Committee for its continuing efforts to improve the Village Hall.

## CLUB REPORTS -

CHIGNAL & MASHBURY GARDENING CLUB – it was reported that the Club is thriving, membership numbers have been maintained and attendance is good. Outings have included a guided tour of Beth Chatto's garden and talks were wide and varied in the Spring and Autumn leaving October free for the Club Supper. New members would be made very welcome on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month and the programme can be seen on the Parish notice boards.

BOWLS CLUB – the Club has had a full programme of activities in the last year including both bowling and social events. 13 matches have been played against local clubs with 11 won and only 2 lost. The Club has also taken part in external competitions. Social events have included a strawberry supper, a quiz night and a fish and chip supper at Christmas.

WOMENS INSTITUTE – the President, reported on a wide variety of speakers including one by a retired officer from Scotland Yard who gave an amusing talk on

the history of fingerprints. There have also been musical afternoons and a flower arranging demonstration. Two new members have joined from outside the Parish and it is hoped that more local members can be recruited.

The Art Group continues to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month and although only a small group, lots of work is being produced and new ideas are being suggested to inspire members.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Tony Wilkins, the area co-ordinator for many years has had to resign for health reasons and a replacement is urgently needed. The Chairman presented Tony with a small token of appreciation for all his hard work over the years.

CRICKET CLUB – 2010 was a special year for the Cricket Club's 1<sup>st</sup> team who finished as champions of Division 1 of the Mid Essex League and will be playing in the Premier Division in 2011 for the first time in the Club's 110 year history. The first home match will be on 7<sup>th</sup> May and supporters would be very welcome at the picturesque ground opposite the Church. Fixture lists are available from Linda Bird on 01245 263279.

WINE DISCOVERY GROUP – Membership is now 29 and the group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month except August with a mixture of presentations from independent experts and others 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 for giving the opportunity to report on events in the last year. Sunday services starting at 11 a.m. have been well attended and a wonderful summer charity concert was very successful. A wheelchair ramp has been installed which was made and donated by a local resident who was thanked for this generous gift. Unfortunately there has been a recent incident when lead was removed from the vestry roof but repair work is in hand to alleviate further damage.

FINANCE – the accounts for 2010/11 were available for inspection.

## VILLAGE CLEAN-UP DAY

The Clean-Up day will be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 9 a.m. from either the Village Hall or Woodhall Farm.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) A Whist Drive will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

b) The Village Fete will be held at Woodhall Farm on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

c) A race night will be held in the Village Hall in October for the Cricket Club.

d) Library Service – it was reported that, although there will be some changes to the service, the mobile library will continue to serve the Parish but some changes to the opening hours at the libraries at Newlands Spring and Writtle are possible.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - The next Annual Parish meeting was arranged for 8 p.m. on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012 in the Village Hall

# St. Nicholas' Church

---

Greetings to you all from St. Nicholas Church. The longer evenings have arrived and with them brings the pleasure of outdoor activities.

The church will continue to be maintained; by the same firm as in the summer of 2010, as we heard several favourable comments.

One of our readers has moved to Braintree and is very shortly retiring. He has taken a monthly service for many years as well as several funerals. We are very grateful to him and he will be greatly missed. The position has not been filled, putting increased pressure on myself. This situation will not be able to be maintained in the long term, if the position is not filled the future of regular Sunday Worship would be curtailed. The P.C.C. very much hope this will not happen.

Many of you are probably aware that lead was stolen from the vestry roof. At the time of writing we are waiting for further quotes for repair.

Lead was also stolen from another church nearby, thankfully the culprits were caught.

Despite all our troubles, we live in a relatively peaceful country unlike many other areas of the world affected by natural disaster or war. We have much to be thankful for. Wishing you all well.

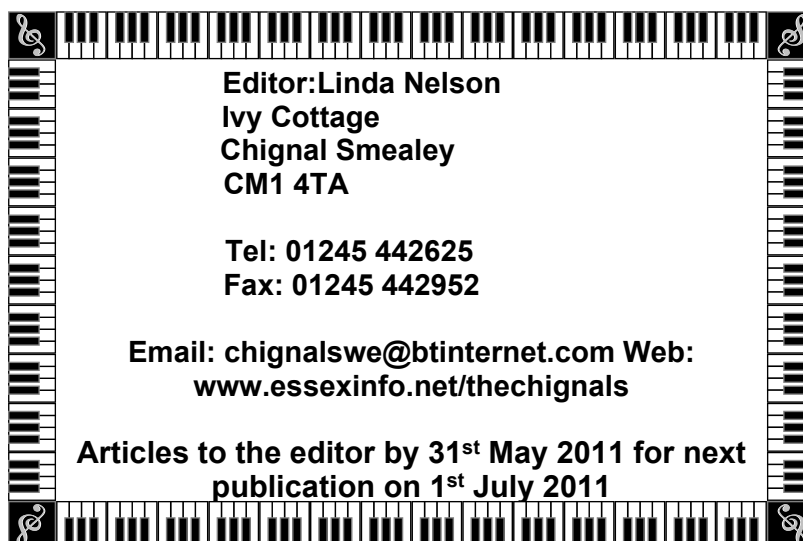


Tony Towns Church Warden  
(Tel 440241)

Dates for your Diary:

A service every Sunday at 11 a.m. □

---



**Editor: Linda Nelson**  
**Ivy Cottage**  
**Chignal Smealey**  
**CM1 4TA**

**Tel: 01245 442625**  
**Fax: 01245 442952**

**Email: [chignalswe@btinternet.com](mailto:chignalswe@btinternet.com) Web: [www.essexinfo.net/thechignals](http://www.essexinfo.net/thechignals)**

**Articles to the editor by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011 for next publication on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011**