

No. 153  
May 2012



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

# Chignal News

## Village Photo Shop



The "grass is greener".

Horses loose on Chignal St James green on 15/4/2012. The horses were led safely back to their field without incident.



Grant Peters son of 1966 football world cup goal scorer Martin Peters was presented with a cheque for £2,000.00 from the Pig and Whistle quizzers and customers. The hospice has been open for 15 years with 5 bedrooms for young children and 3, with en-suite facilities, for teenagers.

The facilities include music therapy, hydrotherapy pool and sensory room manned by trained therapists. Also on site is a library and a chapel.

The hospice provides sibling and bereavement support with beds for parents if needed.

Grant explained they aim to make special memories.

One child is quoted as saying "It doesn't make me better but it makes me happy"

Martin Peters is a patron on Little Havens and has donated a signed shirt to be raffled at a later date.

(Pictures by Ann Salmon)

# Chignals Celebrate!

## ◆ A Celebration in Flowers

St Nicholas Church  
Friday 1st - Tuesday 5th June 10 - 5pm

## ◆ Garden Fete & Vintage Rally

Woodhall Farm  
Saturday 2nd June 1 - 5pm

## ◆ Concert - Nightingale Ensemble

St Nicholas Church - Sunday 3rd June 6pm  
Tickets £10 includes a 'Strawberry Supper' & Wine  
Contact Tony/Helen Towns 440241 or Stephen/Julia Smart 440666

## ◆ Art Exhibition

Village Hall - Monday 4th June 10.30am - 8pm  
Tuesday 5th June 10.30am - 4.30pm  
Evening Reception on Monday from 6pm including wine  
Free entry - Everyone welcome - Contact Myra Wilkins 440659

## ◆ Thanksgiving Service

St Nicholas Church - Sunday 10th June 11am

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# Around the Parish

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Chignal Parish Council would like to distribute a small gift to every child in the parish to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. If you have a child or children under 18 years of age. Please contact Julia Smart on 01245 440666 or Linda Nelson on 01245 442625 (Parish Councillors - Chignal Smealey).

Happy 60<sup>th</sup> birthday to Graham Andrews who celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

A warm welcome to our Parish is extended to Elaine Hinchliffe, who has recently moved into Chignal St James and to Chris and Helen Whitling, who have moved into Chignal Smealey. All the Village clubs welcome new members, as it is a good way to get to know people and become part of the community, so we were really pleased to see Chris and Helen at the recent Garden Club AGM.

Many of you will have noticed the house appearing behind the Bungalow at Chignal Smealey. The new owners are Jemma and Todd Wheldon, who write the following:

We have found part of a newspaper in the wall dating back from 1892 and have been told there has property on our plot for possibly 300 years. We would be grateful for any information anyone has about our plot.

We have now moved into our new house, that Todd built behind the bungalow. Todd worked really hard and built the house in 91 working days, fitting in work around his building company. We hope the building work hasn't disrupted too many people.

In the next few weeks we will be knocking the bungalow down. Unfortunately the bungalow was beyond repair, but we have tried to reclaim as much as possible. The slates from the roof and some of the old bricks and beams have been reused. Our new house has also been named Bridleway Cottage, we didn't think The Bungalow was an appropriate name for a house.

We very much enjoy living in Chignal Smealey, we had a baby boy Ethan last year and he is now nine months old. We are looking forward to bringing up our family here.

Many thanks Jemma Wheldon Twheldon@hotmail.co.uk 01245 512856

# Gardening Club

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Those of us who came to the March meeting of the Gardening Club enjoyed a hugely entertaining evening learning about the life of badgers with Barry Kaufmann-Wright. With a stuffed badger that had met his demise on the road outside Barry's house, a wealth of slides and an inexhaustible fund of anecdotes recalling his time as the first Police Wildlife Officer, we got an insight into the secret world of this ancient animal.

They roamed the earth before us and their network of tracks may be several hundred years old. We learned that they can only see 3 feet ahead so rely on the scent of other badgers to guide them along these well established paths. We were shown evidence of the futility of trying to block a badger highway with a wooden fence: a muscular myopic badger with powerful claws will make a hole through a fence; however many times the panel is replaced. More evidence of their power was that one alpha female was recorded as having shifted 14 tons of sand and gravel to make a sett to raise her cubs: more often, we learned that the alpha male is turfed out of the main sett by his mate in February and has to find himself a bachelor pad until August when the cubs are big enough to fend for themselves.

As for their diet, earthworms are their staple but they will also eat moles, shrews, hedgehogs and raid eggs from ground nesting birds. They are also very partial to strawberries and use their claws to remove the hulls first! To try to deter them from visiting our gardens, it was suggested that we place human hair around the perimeter: this is supposed to be effective for up to 6 months. This is the second time that Barry has spoken to us and I'm sure we will wish to welcome him back next year for more tales of Essex wildlife.

# Gardening Club (continued)

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Following our AGM and quiz evening on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April, at 7.30pm, our summer programme of garden visits starts in May.

## **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm**

Byndes Cottage, Pebmarsh, nr Halstead, Essex, CO9 2LZ

Garden of 7 acres in rural setting created from farmland by its present owners. Features include mixed borders, flowering shrubs and ornamental trees set in rooms created by hedges. Alpine and dry beds. Recently planted 5 acre arboretum of native and specimen trees has large population of bee orchids. Maintained by the owners with strong emphasis on resource conservation and labour-saving techniques while aiming for high horticultural and design standards. Cost: £5.00 per head, including tea/coffee and cake.

## **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm**

Brookfield Cottage, Mill Green, Essex, CM4 0HZ

From a formal white topiary garden to a woodland retreat this garden has been developed by present owners over 20 years into a series of 'gardens'. Landscaping and mixed planting has been used to create a gardener's garden with all year round interest in both colour and form. Cost: £3.50 per head, including tea/coffee and cake.

## **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2012: Special Opening Evening, 6.30pm – 9pm.**

Beeleigh Abbey Gardens, Abbey Turning, Beeleigh, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6LL

Three secluded acres of gardens in rural historic setting. Mature trees surround variety of planting and water features, woodland walks underplanted with bulbs leading to tidal river, cottage garden, kitchen garden, orchard, wild flower meadow, rose garden, wisteria walk, magnolia trees, lawn with 85 yard long herbaceous border. Resident peacocks. Scenic backdrop of remains of C12 abbey incorporated into private house (not open). Cost: £9.00 to include garden entrance and light refreshments, (glass of wine, tea and coffee, cake and savoury nibbles).

## **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm**

Woolards Ash, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, CM22 7JY

Peacocks, guinea fowl and bantams roam this beautiful 3-acre garden, divided into 5 areas by beech and yew hedges, all set in a pastoral landscape. The main area has 2 large subtly planted borders of old roses, shrubs, herbaceous plants and ha-ha with distant views. The walled pool garden provides a tranquil setting for mature borders with further shrub borders, mature trees and wild areas planted with bulbs and old roses, small vegetable garden. Cost: £5.00 per head, including tea/coffee and cake.

For more information about the Chignals and Mashbury Gardening Club and to book the garden visits, please contact Graham Andrews (Chairman) on 01245 442625 or Lynn Ballard (Secretary) on 01245 440880.

# Bowls Club

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Our Club Competitions have now finished, with the Ted Ball Cup, presented each year to the winners of the Pairs Competition, being won this year by Roy Smith and Bill Knight, with Runners-up being Yvonne and Martyn Towns. The Ladies Singles Winner is Sheila Evans with Kathleen Huggett being the runner-up. The Mens Singles Winner was John Manning with Gordon Hillyear being the runner-up.

The A.G.M. was be on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March when the winner of the Ladies Singles play the winner of the Mens Singles for the Bill Hawkes Trophy.

We have played one Friendly Match this year, against RHP which we won. We play RHP away on March 23<sup>rd</sup>

# Wine Discovery Group

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## “A South American Journey”

The Group met on Friday the 9th of March 2012 at the Village Hall and there were 19 Members present.

In the absence of Chairman Norman Smith who was enjoying a golfing holiday in sunnier climes, the honour fell upon Joan Smith to open the evening by introducing Stephen Lacey, Manager of the Adnams Cellar and Kitchen Store in Saffron Walden, Essex.

The Group have met Stephen before as this was his second visit to Chignal St James having last been with us some three years ago.

The theme for the evening was “A South American Journey” encompassing the wines of both Argentina and Chile.

The wines in order of presentation were as follows : -

### Sparkling : -

Casa Rivas, Maipo Valley, Chile @ £13.75

### Whites : -

2011 Casa Rivas, Sauvignon Blanc Reserva, Chile, 13.5% @ £8.75

2011 Gougenheim. Torrentes, Mendoza, Argentina, 12.5 % @ £8.75

2008 Pulenta Estate, Chardonnay, Mendoza, Argentina, 13.0 % @ £9.50

### Reds : -

2008 Casa Rivas, Cabernet Sauvignon, Maria Pinto Reserva, Maipo, Chile 14% @ £8.75

2009 Casa Rivas, Carmenere Gran Reserva, Chile, 14.5% @ £12.99

2007 Gougenheim, Flores Blend (50% Malbec, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc and 8% Merlot) 14.2 % @ £15.99

**\* All prices quoted above are per single bottle**



The Group thoroughly enjoyed a well balanced tasting with a selection of wines from the Southern Hemisphere that had been carefully selected to not only meet the criteria and theme for the evening but also with both quality and value for money in mind.

At the end of the presentation, the Group agreed that it had been an extremely good Tasting that had provided not only an excellent comparison between two neighbouring countries but also where wine production of previously indigenous grape varieties in Europe have been developed to such great effect in another Continent on the opposite side of the world.

The general consensus of opinion was that the “Stand Out” wines on the evening for both quality and value for money were the Casa Rivas Carmenere Gran Reserva from Chile and the Gougenheim Flores Blend Mendoza from Argentina.

In addition, special mention was made of the Gougenheim Torrentes Mendoza from Argentina which provided a great example of a grape variety previously discarded by Europe but which is now flourishing in terms of quality in the Southern Hemisphere year on year and definitely one to look out for as a potential purchase.

Acting Chairman Joan Smith proposed a sincere vote of thanks to Stephen for his presentation which was endorsed by all of the Members present with acclamation.

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

### Next Month : -

The next Tasting will be on Friday the 11th of May 2012 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.

### Annual Christmas Dinner : -

Please note that subsequent to the meeting, it has been agreed that this year's Annual Christmas Dinner will be held in the Chignal St James Village Hall on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2012.

**Steve Lucas**

**CSJ Wine Discovery Group  
Publicity Relations Officer**

## **ECC Web Site Changes and improved Customer Service Centre**

The County Council has launched the next phase of its programme to improve services and drive efficiency designed to make it easier for you to access the information and services you need. We will all benefit from a faster, better and easier service, and also improved cost efficiency, enabling the Council to keep focusing its resources on front line services.

Developed largely in house, the new website <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Pages/Default.aspx> builds on the website platform rolled out last year. The improvements will give all users the flexibility to serve themselves at a time and place that suits them; they also pave the way for a number of specific service area improvements such as enhanced highways information services and a more interactive search for childcare provision as part of the Family Information Service. Of course, current access to all Council services by telephone, email, text etc will remain in place.

Backing up the website is the Colchester based Customer Service Centre redesigned to resolve a greater proportion of calls at the first point of contact by routing callers to the right agent with the right skills, or to an appropriate automated telephone service. Improving the Customer Service Centre will save the Council £5.3 million per year by 2015/16, with £3.5m having been saved by the end of the 2012/13 financial year. I hope you will find that the new set up will improve your customer experience, as well as reducing wasted time and cost.

## **The Answers People**

Do you want to know how to tie a Turk's Head knot, whether there are any trees that can't be planted in a Church of England churchyard or how to remove a biro stain from trousers? These are some of the more unusual questions posed to The Answers People over the past few months. This County Council service, which was formerly known as Answers Direct, is operated by Essex Libraries and has been rebranded as The Answers People. The service allows you to submit any question on any topic by telephone, using a web chat line or an online form, to specially trained library staff who have access to specific authoritative sources of information beyond what's available on the internet. For more information visit [www.answerspeople.info](http://www.answerspeople.info) or telephone 0845 603 7628 (call charges apply). The telephone service is staffed Monday – Friday 9am – 7pm Saturday 9am – 5.30pm and 1pm – 4pm on Sunday.

## **Part Night Time Street Lighting**

As many of you already know the Council has been running a part-night time street lighting pilot scheme in Maldon and Uttlesford since 2007; with street lights being switched off between midnight and 5am each night. The Council will now start local consultations with parish and town councils, together with district and borough councils around the introduction of part-night street lighting later this year starting with Braintree in June, followed by Chelmsford. It is worth noting that crime statistics recorded during the pilots showed no significant change to the number of offences occurring between 11.30pm and 5.30am in fact they actually dropped by 14% in Maldon, and by 12.6% in Uttlesford; and there has also been no demonstrable increase in road accidents. The pilots have delivered energy savings of 20% (circa £70,000 per annum). And it is estimated that switching 70% of ECC's street lights to part-night lighting would reduce carbon emissions by 8000 tonnes per year. For further information go to

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/news/pages/part-night-street-lighting-update.aspx>

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

John Aldridge CC May / June 2012

# Mashbury Parish Meeting

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A meeting of Mashbury Parish took place on 22nd March 2012 at the Village Hall.

Among the matters raised by those present was concern about Lorries parking in the road to unload at the nursery in Chignal. It was noted that very large vehicles block the road completely and that they are very close to the sharp bend. A letter will be sent to the Nursery owner about our concerns.

There was some continued discussion around hedge pruning in the Parish, with one resident reporting that an initial application for a Tree Preservation Order had been refused as the trees are not visible from the road. Another application for a TPO has been successful even though the trees in question are away from the road.

The meeting was reminded that updates from the Police on crimes in the Chelmsford area

and on crime prevention are readily available by giving an e-mail contact to Moira. Moira also reported on the priorities identified at the recent Neighbourhood Action Planning meeting when all present had agreed that top of the list must be a continued and appropriately mobile Police presence in the area.

The Winter salt-bag scheme had proved helpful as it had enabled Chris Philpot to clear Smallshoes Hill completely after the heavy snow fall in February. The meeting thanked him for his prompt and hard work.

A number of residents volunteered to clear litter from roads in the Parish for which we are all grateful.

Moira Tarrant  
Chair, Mashbury Parish Meeting

## Community News

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### 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 24<sup>th</sup> March. We will have to order more litter pickers for next year due to the large turnout.

### Chignals & Mashbury Neighbourhood Watch

- **Do you know which are the commonest crimes recently committed in this area?**
- **Do you know the best ways to protect yourself and your property from criminal activity?**
- **Do you know how to report suspicious behaviour which could help solve or prevent a crime?**
- 

If your answer to any of these is NO you ought to put yourself on the Neighbourhood Watch information scheme. Simply by providing your e-mail address to one of our Neighbourhood Watch representatives you will receive regular bulletins direct from the Police. These give crime updates, advice on crime prevention, details of scams and the good bit - news of Police detection successes.

Neighbourhood Watch representatives are:

**Mashbury** Moira Tarrant - m.tarrant@virgin.net

**Chignal St James & Chignal Smealey** Contact any Parish councillor. If you don't know one, contact Chris Philpot - Chris@cjhfarming.co.uk

# Chignal Parish Council

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## **UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12th MARCH 2012 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

### **COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

County Councillor Aldridge announced that there is a shortage of water supplies in parts of Essex and some restrictions may be necessary in the near future. There have been some changes to the Fire Authority and a contract has been finalised with Greenway Jacobs for highways maintenance contracts but there are still facilities to report faults, such as potholes, on line.

Councillor Chambers explained that the Corporate Plans for 2012-2016 are available for consultation.

Food collection is to be phased in throughout the Borough but waste collection will no longer take place on Mondays. The Olympic Torch will pass through Chelmsford on 6th and 7th July and free tickets are available, on line, to attend the event.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – The Chairman reported that he has attended a local NAP meeting where an increase in the theft of catalytic converters in the area was reported. Vulnerable parishioners should be extra vigilant

The Parish Council has had a meeting with Joy Darby, the Chief Executive of the EALC who has suggested some minor amendments to procedures which will be put in place in May.

### **SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**VILLAGE HALL LIAISON** – it was reported that work to improve the kitchen is 90% complete and thanks was expressed to all members who have helped to carry on with activities while the building works have progressed.

**NEWSLETTER INCL. WEBSITE** – the editor confirmed that she is happy to continue producing the Newsletter but would appreciate more material for inclusion in each edition.

**HIGHWAYS** – it was reported that two potholes have been filled but repairs to the signpost at Beadles Hall corner are still outstanding, but work will be carried out in the new financial year in April.

**TELEPHONE BOX, CHIGNAL ST. JAMES** – shelves will be fixed shortly to accommodate the book and vegetable exchanges.

**TREE WARDEN** – thanks were recorded to the Borough Council for donating the oak tree which was successfully planted on the Village Green on 28th January. A write up of the ceremony was included in the Essex Chronicle and the Village Newsletter. Hedgerow trees surrounding the Green were reported to be in good condition.

**PLANNING** – Chignal Hall – the retrospective application for change of use of Unit 4 has been withdrawn and notice to quit given to the company using the premises.

Landfill Site at Brittons Hall – continuation of use – a decision will be made shortly.

**QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE** – the paperweights for the children in the Parish will be delivered shortly.

**INTER VILLAGE OLYMPICS** – It was reported that five other parishes have signed up to compete and the route of the torch procession has been agreed. Events start on 26th May, a quiz will take place on 23rd June with bowls on 4th July. Celebrations will conclude with a party at Roxwell on the Saturday night.

**PURCHASE OF THE VILLAGE GREEN** – Professional advice is being sought on the terms of the purchase.

**FUNDING FROM PLANNING GRANT** – suggestions for using the £1,279 available for visibly improving the Parish following a recent planning approval, are still being considered.

**PARISH ORCHARD** – the two sites suggested are still being investigated. Some funding is available but it was agreed to continue to pursue the suitability of both sites before a decision is made.

**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 14th May 2012.



# Chignal Parish Council Annual Meeting

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## **Unconfirmed report of the Chignal Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012.**

The meeting was well attended by Parish Councillors, a County Councillor, Borough Councillor and 14 parishioners and was chaired by Mr. Chris Philpot.

**MINUTES** - The minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011 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 his work as internal auditor.

The Chairman reported that some training days have been attended by Parish Councillors and investigations are ongoing on the possibility of the Parish Council purchasing the Village Green.

A tree planting ceremony took place recently on the Village Green to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee Year following the donation of the tree by the Borough Council.

Chignal is participating in the Inter Village Olympics and the possibility of a Village Orchard is being investigated.

The Parish Council has provided a donation towards the building works to improve the kitchen in the Village Hall and the work is almost complete.

## **CLUB REPORTS -**

**CHIGNAL & MASHBURY GARDENING CLUB** – the Club has had another successful and enjoyable year with interesting talks and Summer visits. It has made a major contribution to the Village Fete raising over £700 for Village Hall funds. Meetings take place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, the programme is displayed on the Parish notice boards and everyone is welcome to attend.

**BOWLS CLUB** – the Club has had a full programme of activities in the last year including both bowling and social events and there is now a membership of 25. 14 friendly matches have been played and won against local clubs and there have been several social activities including a strawberry supper and a quiz night. New members are always welcome, whether experienced or not, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, in the Village Hall.

**WOMENS INSTITUTE AND ART GROUP** – the President, reported on a wide variety of topics including the valuation of jewellery and talks on travels to New Zealand and Iceland. There have also been special outside meetings and a village quiz. 2012 is the 60th anniversary of Chignal W.I. and has started well with 7 new members joining the Group.

The Art Group is now also a Craft Group and though small in numbers, it is very enthusiastic with lots of work being produced.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** – it was reported that the police presence in Chignal has been cut because PCSO's are working less hours and no police vehicles will be available for them after April.

**CRICKET CLUB** – 2011 was a good year for both teams, the first eleven, after gaining promotion to the premier division in 2010, finished 5<sup>th</sup>, a great achievement. The second eleven finished champions in Division 10 and will compete in Division 9 in 2012. The first home game in Chignal is on 5<sup>th</sup> May for the second eleven and 12<sup>th</sup> May the first home match for the first's. Supporters are very welcome and a fixture list is available on request.

**WINE DISCOVERY GROUP** – the membership has grown to 35 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. Two regular events are the Summer BBQ and a meal at Christmas.

**ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH** – it was reported that weekly services have been poorly attended but the church is well maintained by a team of cleaners and floral arrangers. A Mothering Sunday Service will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> March and a celebration for Easter at 11 a.m. on 8<sup>th</sup> April. A concert will be held in the Church to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

**CHIGNAL CHAPEL** – the Chapel celebrates its 170th anniversary this year which will be commemorated on 24<sup>th</sup> June when it is hope to produce a booklet on the history of the chapel. Sunday worship is held at 10.45 a.m. each week and there are special services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Coffee mornings are held on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10.30 – 12 noon.

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

## **VILLAGE CLEAN-UP DAY**

The Clean-Up day will be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 9 a.m. from either the Village Hall or Woodhall Farm.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – it was confirmed that Village Agents are still available on 0800 9775858.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - The next Annual Parish meeting was arranged for 8 p.m. on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013 in the Village Hall.

# Inter-Village Games, 2<sup>nd</sup> June – 7<sup>th</sup> July

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As mentioned in the March edition of Chignal News, the village is fielding a number of teams in the Inter-Village Games: Badminton; Carpet Bowls, (to be hosted by the Chignals); Clay Pigeon Shooting; Croquet; Equestrian (dressage); Golf; Quiz; Table Tennis; Tennis; and, 10K Trail Run. We still need more volunteers, (men and women) to make up teams for Cricket and Volleyball.

All of you who have expressed an interest in participating in the sports and quiz now need to nominate a team captain so that I can put you in touch with the organiser for your event.

The Inter Village Games Grand Finals Day will be held on 7th July to coincide with the passing of the Olympic Torch between Chelmsford and Harlow. The finals of some of the competitions, staged during the proceeding weeks, will take place and be followed by a tug of war finals, hog-roast and entertainment.

The Inter-Village Games Torch Relay is scheduled to pass through the Chignals on Saturday 2nd June during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend. So far we have had offers from villagers to carry the torch on foot, horseback and bicycle. The latest timings are that the torch will be handed over from the Easters relay team at the turning to Mashbury Hall, near The Chase House at 13.15. The proposed route through the Chignals would take the torch by road to the Chignal Chapel, (possibly by horse and carriage) and then by families walking along the bridleway passing Church Cottage to Chignal Smealey. From St Nicholas' Church the torch may be carried on horseback to the Village Fête at Woodhall where it will be given an official welcome and there is a possibility for the torch to be carried by several people around the fete. Finally, the torch will be taken at 15.15 at the latest to Highwood by bicycle or car for a hand over at 15.45. We are particularly keen to encourage families to get involved in the torch relay, for example, to walk or cycle along the bridleway between Chignal Chapel and St Nicholas' Church and to carry it at the Fête.

For more information about the Inter-Village Games generally, please contact Lynn Ballard, 01245 440880 or by email: [lynn\\_ballard@btinternet.com](mailto:lynn_ballard@btinternet.com) or in relation to the Torch Procession, Gill Thomas, 01245 442474 or by email: [moathousegill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:moathousegill@yahoo.co.uk)

## Community Orchard Project Update

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As mentioned in the December edition of Chignal News, there has been a positive response to the idea of creating a community orchard in the village. Based on this expression of enthusiasm, the Parish Council agreed at its meetings on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and 12<sup>th</sup> March that two potential sites for a community orchard should be investigated:

1. An area of grassland currently cut for hay opposite the village playing fields at Howletts Corner, Chignal St James which is owned by Chelmsford City Council;
2. Grassland on the gravel workings and landfill site owned by Lafarge, north of Pengymill and south of the flooded gravel pit alongside Bridleway 33.

The owners of both sites were approached and we have received positive encouragement for establishing a community orchard from the City Council on the Howletts Corner site. After a meeting on site on 26<sup>th</sup> March with Chelmsford City Council officers attended by some local residents and Parish Councillors, we were invited to approach the Council to consider granting a 25 year lease, exclusively for a community orchard.

Before taking this project idea any further, it's essential to have the backing of those living in the Parish. It cannot go ahead without the commitment of local people to establish, manage and use the orchard. To this end you are invited to attend the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall when the project will be discussed.

In the meantime, if you have any views about the community orchard project, please contact Lynn Ballard on 01245 440880 or by email: [lynn\\_ballard@btinternet.com](mailto:lynn_ballard@btinternet.com)

# St. Nicholas' Church

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## Greetings to you all from St Nicholas Church.

St Nicholas Church was the venue for the baptism of Lilly Rose from Good Easter, her parents having married at St Nicholas, it was a very happy occasion, the church was full which is very encouraging. We wish Lilly and her parents much happiness for the future.

Diana Garfield conducted the Mothering Sunday service which was attended by a good number of families and friends. We were all given a piece of wool which we tied together, initially in families, then each family was linked with one another, leaving an open end. The children quickly understood the significance, the knots representing love, support, care joy, the list is endless, the open end making room for more families to join in the family of the church.

A parishioner kindly paid for a tree surgeon to prune the yew tree in the church yard in addition to general maintenance. The result is very pleasing, letting in much more sun light into the church. The maintenance of grass cutting will be continued as previously. A church yard tidy up is planned for Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May and a church polishing morning Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May, both commencing at 10am. Your help would be much appreciated.

We continue to hold a Sunday service at 11am (unless otherwise stated) to which you are all welcome. Please note there will be no Sunday service June 3<sup>rd</sup> (see enclosed CHIGNALS CELEBRATE notice).

We hope to see many of you at the Queens diamond celebrations.

Best wishes to you all Tony Towns (tele no 440241)

From the church register  
Baptism Lilly Rose Agnew 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012

## Dates for your Diary:

A service every Sunday at 11 a.m.

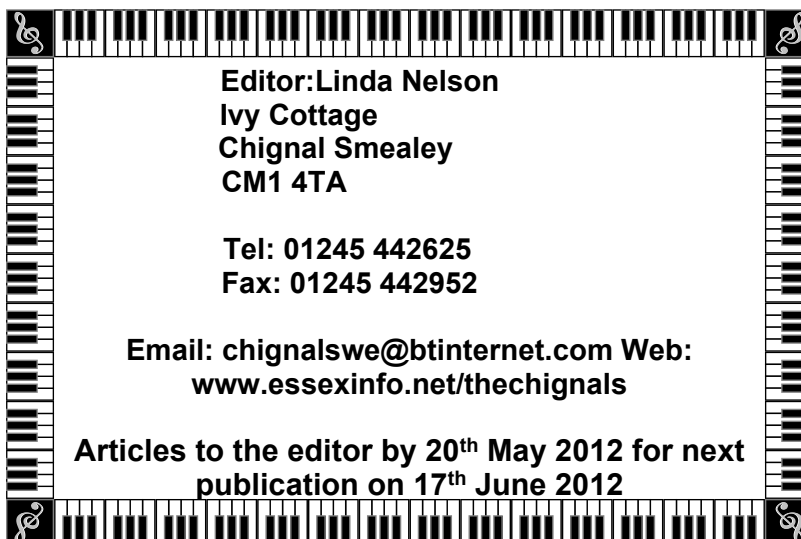
(N.B NO SERVICE JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May Church yard tidy up. 10am

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May Church polishing morning 10am



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