



Farewell Mark & Tina

Mark and Tina, mine hosts of the Pig and Whistle present a cheque for £850 to Glenda Lance of the Audrey Appleton Trust. (Pictured below left)

In the 5 years that Mark and Tina have been running quiz evenings in the Chignals (both at the Three Elms and the Pig and Whistle) over £26,000 has been raised for local charities and they will be sorely missed by the local community, as they are no longer managing the Pig and Whistle Pub. I am sure everyone will wish them well for the future.



Two Parish Councilors and three residents braved the cold on Friday 8th February and walked footpaths 30, 23, 31, 32, 26, 29, 27, 21 and 36 from the village green to the back of Avon Road then returned via Brick Barns Farm and back to the village green on footpaths 26 and 27.

(Chris and Lynn were urgently called away to deal with the Orchard lease just before the walk started).

Footpath arrow discs were enthusiastically attached to marker and gate posts where needed. (Too enthusiastically as we ran out of disks before we had reached half way round the intended route). We will undertake a follow up visit to complete the task.

Photos: above centre - Joan Smith, Sandra Baily and Leslie Newell braving the weather and testing the footbridge on footpath 30.

Above right - Martyn Towns inspecting a Marker post on footpath 30.

Village Clean-up



Due to bad weather the Village Clean-up was delayed by one week.

A big thank you to everyone that took part - the lanes did look tidier for a time, but the litter louts and fly tippers are out and about making the place look untidy again.

Chignal Wine Discovery Group

In February Dave and Gill presented 'Wines from Newspapers' whereby we sampled wines that had been recommended by various newspaper wine critics within the last 4 months. We tried a white and red in each of four categories; Supermarket own brand, £10, £10-£15 and £15-£20. All were purchased from a cross section of supermarkets. It was interesting to compare our views with those of the critic. The critic has to consider value for money as well as the papers audience, as opposed to us, who just need to decide whether we like it or not! Finding a critic who appeals to your own wine preference could be a worthwhile exercise but could also prove a long term project with many disappointments along the way. Of those tasted the 2010 Bellingham The Bernard Series Roussanne was regarded as the one members would likely buy again. A very relaxed and enjoyable evening was had by all with the moral of the evening being not to believe everything you read in the papers!

In March Charles Hardcastle from Joseph Barnes Wines Limited (www.josephbarneswines.com) returned to present 'There's more to Spain than Rioja..'. Joseph Barnes Wines is an independent wine merchant in Saffron Walden – they regularly hold wine tasting evenings and events within the shop (which has a delicatessen attached) and Charles is always welcomed at our Friday evening tastings. Yet again he brought a great selection of wine which he complimented with a very knowledgeable overview for each – in many cases Charles had visited the vineyard and was on first name terms with the owner - this in stark contrast to taking pot luck (in some cases) buying off the shelf from the supermarket. Each wine was of a very good quality, and, whilst they were not all to everyone's individual taste (we all loved numbers 3, 5 and 6 though) we could appreciate that by using an independent wine merchant you could more easily build a portfolio of wines to compliment and delight at any occasion.

The wines tasted were:

Dominio de Tharsys, Cava Brut Nature NV (Spkl) - Requena
Bodegas Angel Ruiz, Martinsancho Verdejo 2011 (W) - Rueda
Bodegas Terras Gauda, Albarino, Abadia de San Campio 2011 (W) - Rias Baixas
Bodegas Pirineos, Pirineos Parraleta 2007 (R) - Somontano
Bodegas Pittacum, Bierzo Tinto 'Aurea' 2007 (R) - Bierzo
Bodegas Toro Albala, Don PX Vino Dulce de Pasas (1/2 Bt) (Sw) - Montilla-Morales

If you would like more information on, or wish to join the wine club please contact Dave Thomas on 01245 442474.



A Selection from our March tasting



Gardening Club Visits

Thursday 16 May, 2.30pm. Peacocks, Roman Road, Margaretting, CM4 9HY

Cost: £6.00 per person including refreshments

Description: 5-acre natural garden with many mature native and specimen trees. Period greenhouse, melon house and potting shed. Formal walled gardens, long herbaceous/mixed border. Newly restored temple and 'wildlife lake'. Woodland walk and new orchard/flower meadow, spring bulbs in nut walk and sunken rill. All surrounding Regency House (not open).

Wednesday 19 June, 7pm. Woodpeckers, Mangapp Chase, Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8QQ

Cost: £6.00 per person including refreshments

Description: Hedges divide and add structure to exuberant planting in this 1½-acre country garden. Spring brings blossom in the orchard, wild flowers and drifts of bulbs, later there's summer abundance in the kitchen garden and wide densely-planted borders. September's stronger colours and nectar-rich varieties encourage foraging bees and clouds of butterflies

Wednesday 17 July, 7pm. South Shoebury Hall, Church Road, Shoeburyness, SS3 9DN

Cost: £3.50 garden entrance + £2.50 wine/soft drink and canapes

Description: Delightful, 1-acre established walled garden surrounding Grade 2 listed house (not open) and bee house. New agapanthus and hydrangea beds. April is ablaze with 3000 tulips and fritillaria. July shows 120+ varieties of agapanthus. Unusual trees, shrubs, rose borders, with 40yr plus old geraniums, Mediterranean and Southern Hemisphere planting in dry garden. Garden close to sea.

For more information, please contact Graham Andrews (Chairman) on 01245 442625 or Lynn Ballard (Secretary) on 01245 440880.

Bowl's Club

The A.G.M. of the Bowls Club was held on 26th March in the Village Hall. In spite of the cold wintry weather a large number of our members attended. The evening began with the match between the winner of the Ladies' Single's competition, who this year is Sheila Evans, and the winner of the Men's Singles, who is Geoff Coates. This was a very good and close match, won by Sheila. She was then presented with the Bill Hawkes Trophy, usually this is presented to the winner by Helen Hawkes but this year in her absence, by the Chairman. Following this, Trophies were presented to the winners of this year's Pairs Winners namely Roy Smith and Bill Knight, with the Runners-up Trophies given to Gordon Hillyear and Emma Morton. Geoff was presented with the Men's Singles Trophy, with Roy Smith being Runner-up, and Sheila presented with the Ladies' Singles Trophy, with Marian Butcher being Runner-up.

Club photo was then taken, all wearing our blue jumpers, followed by a cheese and biscuit buffet with wine.

The business of the A.G.M. then began with reports from, Chairman, Secretary, Captain and Treasurer with thanks expressed to our new Captain Kathleen, who has done a very good job in the past year. Suggestions were made for some social activities in the Club, such as Ten Pin Bowling, which most of us would like to try, and another trip to Pitch and Putt. The Committee were re-elected en-bloc and the evening finished with the paying of annual subscriptions.

Our next Friendly Match is against RHP on 5th April.



The Chignals & Mashbury

Jubilee Community Orchard

April 2013 Orchard News

The community orchard is a reality! This new addition to our community has been funded entirely by external sources of funding and support and has been made possible through the efforts of the Parish Council assisted by a band of energetic volunteers from the Chignals and Mashbury.

The Parish Council took over the lease of the orchard site at Howlett's Corner, (opposite the playing fields in Chignal St James) in the middle of March and our contractors started work at the beginning of April to secure the area with rabbit proof fencing augmented by 420 native fruiting hedgerow plants sourced from the Woodland Trust, such as wild rose, elder, blackthorn, crab apple and hazel.

Of course, one of the most important features of the community orchard is the selection and planting of the fruit trees. Most of the 66 trees that we have chosen are heritage varieties developed in Essex and Hertfordshire: apples such as Seabrook's Red, George Cave, Montfort, Pearl, Braintree Seedling, Dr Harvey and Chelmsford Wonder; pears include, Improved Fertility, Gansel's Bergamot and Johnny Mount Pear; Golden Transparent and Monarch plums; and, three different varieties of quince and a mulberry. Despite a damp and showery day, our first orchard event on 12th April was a huge success. Almost 50 adults and children getting down to planting the last of the trees and hedgerow plants, many meeting each other for the first time and enjoying the occasion. A big thank you to orchard supporters Cllr Nicolette Chambers from Chelmsford City Council, Dave Benfield from Lafarge-Tarmac and Sophie Blythe from Edible Essex who planted the first trees and to Dominic Field and Mark Stevens from Transscape who took the time to get involved with us all, and led the way with the planting. They have done a tremendous job in delivering our orchard on time.

There are now some finishing touches to add: sowing a wild flower meadow, erecting a storage shed, benches and a picnic table. We are planning an official orchard opening on **Saturday 18th May at 10.30 am** with a variety of events to celebrate this new addition to the many good things about living in and visiting our villages and to acknowledge the role of our funders and supporters. Car parking will be at the village hall and from there it is only a short step to the orchard. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Parish Council's orchard sub-committee has been meeting twice a month since January to get the orchard off the ground and the Orchard Friends group continues to grow as more residents of Mashbury and the Chignals have expressed interest in being involved in the project. There is now a dedicated email address for the orchard: chignal.mashburyjubileeorchard@hotmail.co.uk and regular briefings are emailed to the Orchard Friends and placed on the Chignal website: www.essexinfo.net/thechignals.

If you would like to find out more about the orchard or become an Orchard Friend, please get in touch with any of the orchard committee members below or come along to the next Chignal Parish Council Orchard Committee meeting at the village hall on **Monday 13th May at 7.00pm** to find out more.

Malcolm Feltwell. Tel: 01245 441070. Email: mandj@mjfeltwell.plus.com

Lynn Ballard. Tel: 01245 440880. Email: lynn_ballard@btinternet.com

Moira Tarrant. Email: m.tarrant@virgin.net

Sandra Bailey. Email: sandbail57@hotmail.com

Steve Middleditch. Email: steve.middleditch@btinternet.com

Simon Leadbeatter. Email: simonleadbeatter@hotmail.com

Geoff Pitts

Community News

"FRIENDS OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY"

Do you have an occasion when you need a helping hand?

If so, we can offer for example:

Assistance with Light Shopping

Help With Attending Appointments (Doctor, Dentist, Vets etc.)

Prescription Collection / Library Book Returns etc.

Help With Seeking Advice or Filling In Forms etc.

Companionship / Someone to Talk to

Light Domestic Duties etc., etc.

We realise that you may already have a kindly relative, friend or neighbour helping you in some way at the moment. However, on the odd occasion, there may be times that they are unable to be there for you. If so, please contact us between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on one of the following telephone numbers:

01245 440528 (Barbara), 01245 442474 (Gill), 01245 440241 (Helen), 01245 440880 (Lynn),
01245 445245 (Sandra), 01245 443497 (Sarah)

We will call you back as soon as possible to discuss your individual needs. Please leave your name and telephone number if we do not answer your call immediately.

If you do not need support but would like to join us with this venture, please telephone us as soon as possible. Barbara & Helen would like to thank the people who have already offered their services for the "Friends of the Chignals with Mashbury" venture.

Note: Please keep this notice handy as it might be useful one day

Dates for your Diary

Annual Village Hall Fete and Vintage Rally at the Village Hall on Saturday 1st June 2013 from 1 pm to 5 pm
A fun day out for all the family with **FREE ADMISSION!**

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE

Items for stalls are welcome

Stalls-Games-Plants-Books-Cream Teas-Tombola-Cakes-Art Exhibition Tractors-Farm Machinery-Motorbikes-Engines-Cars

All proceeds to village hall improvements and other local charities.

North Melbourne Library

Come along to North Melbourne library to pick up a good read for yourself, bring your children or collect books for an elderly relative to enjoy. We have books available in Large Print or spoken work format and if you have a suitable device e-books and e-audible books are available to download from the library catalogue

Our opening hours are Tuesday 9-5, Friday 9-5 and Saturday 9-5

We have a baby and toddler story time every Friday from 11- 11.30 am suitable for all under 5 and their carers. Come and join in with popular stories, rhymes and songs.

Fancy joining a book group? We have 2 library based book groups who meet on Fridays or if you have a group of friends, who like to read books and discuss the plot after, why not create your own. Pop into the library where the friendly staff will guide you through the process of setting your group up.

We are always looking for volunteers. Currently we are recruiting for the Summer Reading Challenge where we are looking for people to support some of the 45,000 youngsters who take part by reading 6 books over the summer holidays- collecting stickers along the way. If you are interested contact the library for more information.

We are also looking for Home Library Service Volunteers who will visit customers in their own home delivery and exchanging books. Pop in for more details. Likewise if you know of a person who would benefit from this service contact North Melbourne Library to arrange the start of this service.

We have 3 computers available for use by the public and the library has Wi-Fi enabled so all you need is a library card to activate your account.

Remember the library is free to join and offers access to millions of books and audio visual items. Having a library card also gives you access to many online subscriptions and data bases.

We hope to see you soon

North Melbourne Library, Dickens Place, Copperfield Road, CM14UU

Telephone: 01245 442292 Email northmel.library@essex.gov.uk

Coffee Morning

1st Wednesday of every month at The Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall.

Next date 5th June

Please come & join us for coffee/ tea & cake and good conversation! All welcome.

Admission £1 (includes the tea & cake!)

Don't forget, if you need help with transport you can call on the Friends of the Chignals with Mashbury Group. Details in the Parish News.



New Pentaque Club at the Three Elms

We started playing around August of last year just on a Saturday afternoon social basis and in November were invited to join the Essex Winter League which we did. The league has just finished where we were amongst 9 other teams who have been playing between 3 & 30 years so our expectations were quite low but I'm pleased to say we've ended up a creditable 7th and have had a run of 5 successive wins in the triples section. We play in the pub car park and practice most Saturday afternoons if anyone would be interested in a game. We will shortly be starting our first season in the summer league having finished much better than anyone had expected in the Winter League. Players from the Three Elms have also represented Essex in an Inter County match and also taken part and won awards in an invitational event. Although ultimately we play very much for the fun of it although its amazing how competitive it can make you. We also just been doing a considerable amount of work on improving our pitch at the pub. For more information contact Pete at the Three Elms. (Team Picture below left:)



More Dates For Your Diary

Official Opening of the Community Orchard

All are welcome to attend the opening on the 18th May at 10 a.m.

Parking is at the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

(Pictures of the tree planting on the 12th April above centre and right)

WRITTLE GARDENS OPEN DAY
Sunday 23rd June 2013 12 noon to 6 pm

Opening on The Green at 12 noon by our Patron The Lord Petre, Lord Lieutenant of Essex

20 gardens open including 4 new and 5 returning

Plus: Bowling Green, Allotments, Longmeads House and Church Bell Ringing & Morris Dancing

Refreshments available around the village

Extra parking at Writtle College's Lordship Road car park

Admission by programme:

£4 per person on the day from The Green, Accompanied children under 16 free .

No dogs please

Information: Jean Pinkney 01245 421503, Peter Pegg 01245 420200, Sue Field 01245 423176

Chignal Parish Council Annual Meeting

Unconfirmed report of the Chignal Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 11th March 2013.

The meeting was well attended by Parish Councillors and 16 parishioners and was chaired by Mr. Chris Philpot. 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. Steve Middleditch was welcomed as a new Councillor and Andy Jenkins as the new Hon. Rural Officer. Lyn Ballard was thanked for all her work for the Jubilee celebrations and the proposed new Village Orchard and the editor of the Village Newsletter was also thanked.

CHIGNAL & MASHBURY GARDENING CLUB – membership continues to grow and during the past year there have been interesting and varied speakers with Summer visits to local gardens and a wonderful evening visit to Beeleigh Abbey. The gardening club has been very supportive of the proposed village orchard and members will be involved with the tree and wild flower planting.

BOWLS CLUB – the club continues to meet twice each week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Apart from internal competitions the club has been well represented at the Essex Championships, open events and friendly matches against local teams. Social events have included a quiz night and meals at local hostelrys. New members are always welcome.

WOMENS INSTITUTE AND ART GROUP– 2012 was the 60th anniversary of Chignal W.I. which continues to thrive with five new members in the last year. Support has been given to disabled children in the Chernobyl region of the Ukraine by providing warm blankets and jumpers knitted by members. 2013 has started well with more new members and a new President – Janet Campen.

The Art Group now meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at St. Mary's Cottage.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – although there is no longer a co-ordinator, all information is forwarded by the police to the Chairman who passes on the information to all Councillors.

CRICKET CLUB – 2012 was a fairly good year for both teams with the 1st eleven avoiding relegation from the premier league and the 2nd eleven finishing in 6th position in Division 9 following promotion. The first home game is on 4th May with the second eleven's first home match on 11th May.

WINE DISCOVERY GROUP – the membership has grown to 39 and in September will celebrate its 10th anniversary. The group meets on the 2nd Friday of each month except August with special events at

Christmas and a BBQ in the Summer. The annual membership fee is £15 with £7.50 for each tasting evening attended.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH – it was reported that after 11 years without a priest a new priest in charge was appointed in January 2013, the Reverend Caroline Bower, and her duties include the Parishes of Chignal with Mashbury, Great Waltham and Ford End. In the course of the year, in addition to Sunday Services there have been four baptisms, one wedding and two funerals. A concert was held in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with the church full to capacity. The church has been well maintained by a team of cleaners and floral arrangers and thanks were expressed to all who helped in these capacities.

CHIGNAL 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 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10.30 – 12 noon and everyone is welcome. In April a total immersion water baptism service was held and in October there was a wedding in the Chapel. The village carol service will be held in the Chapel this year. **FINANCE** – the accounts for 2011/12 were available for inspection.

VILLAGE CLEAN-UP DAY - The Clean-Up day will be held on Saturday 23rd March commencing at 9 a.m. from either the Village Hall or Woodhall Farm. Volunteers would be much appreciated particularly from the Woodhall area of the Parish.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was suggested that a coffee morning be held on the first Wednesday of each month and encourage elderly parishioners to attend to highlight any problems they may have which your members of the community could help resolve. The Parish Council supported the idea and it was explained that money is available from various sources to help finance the proposal.

The Village Fete will be held on 1st June on the Village Hall Playing Fields.

A caravan rally will be held at the Village Hall in April. It was explained that information on the funding for faster Broadband will be included in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Reservations were expressed on the dangers on the narrow roads in Chignal for organised Charity cycle and walking groups.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - The next Annual Parish meeting was arranged for 8 p.m. on Monday 10th March 2014 in the Village Hall.

Mashbury Parish Meeting

Report on Mashbury Parish Meeting

A meeting of Mashbury Parish took place on 13th March 2013 at the Village Hall. Apologies were received from Cllr. John Aldridge but Cllr Nicolette Chambers was able to stay for a short while and give a brief report.

A number of concerns were raised by residents and have been taken up as appropriate. It is believed that a partially dismembered deer carcass was probably linked to poaching and has been reported to the Police. Damage of a footpath through use by horses can be taken up with the Rights of Way team if appropriate. Advice on responsibility for flooding ditches towards Winchmore Hill will be sought from Chelmsford City Council. Once again, there were concerns about lorries blocking the road when delivering at Pieces Cottage and this will be taken up with the Nursery owner.

The report on farming confirmed that planned hedge pruning work has been postponed until next winter because of poor weather. All farm work has been disrupted with land preparation and crop planting well behind schedule.

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 last 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 meeting was hugely supportive of the planned Jubilee Community Orchard and unanimously voted to support the scheme. An email information scheme is in place and anyone can be added to receive updates on working days, events and planned celebrations by contacting Moira.

Residents were reminded that the Village Fete will be on 1st June 2013 at the Village Hall and all were reminded of the appeal for plants to sell and volunteers to help out.

The Winter Salt Bag scheme had helped keep roads in the Parish passable and all volunteers were thanked for their work in distributing and spreading salt.

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
m.tarrant@virgin.net

Chignal Parish Council

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11th MARCH 2013 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Chris. Philpot.

CITY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT –

Councillor Nicolette Chambers reported that there is to be an Old Persons Information Day in the Cathedral on 16th April. Various changes at Hylands House include an alternative area being created for dogs, a marquee on the side of the House for functions and a change to the junction to the grounds of the House. A café has been opened at Oaklands Park and work is to be undertaken to the A1060 to solve problems with flooding between Boyton Cross and the Writtle Roundabout. Councillor Chambers explained that the name change to a road in the Parish renamed 'Church Road' is being investigated.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

PLAYING FIELDS – the use of the field for the Village Fete on 1st June and a 'private' event on 8th June were agreed.

VILLAGE HALL – the AGM was held on 25th February .

NEWSLETTER INCLUDING WEBSITE – the editor thanked all who contributed to the newsletter and asked for public opinion about having a 'kids zone'. Steve Middleditch has volunteered to become a distributor in place of Gordon Lee.

GRAVEL LIAISON – there has been no meeting since 24th November 2012 but if there are any problems they should be reported to Dave Benfield the site manager on 07803 953732 or a Parish Councillor who will pass on complaints .Lafarge proposes to hold an 'Open Day' in the Summer. The Parish Council was asked to contact Lafarge about litter following the recent high winds.

VILLAGE WATCH – it was reported the police regularly inform the Chairman of any incidents in the Parish who passes this information to the Councillors.

HIGHWAYS – some work has been carried out to fill potholes but there is still much work to be done. The lay-bye near the cricket ground is prone to flooding caused by a blocked gully and other areas of the Parish are encountering similar problems and will be reported to the Highways Department. It was requested that the newly named 'Church Road' be renamed 'Chignal Road'.

FOOTPATHS/BRIDLEWAYS – The first footpath walk of the year took place on Friday 8th February, from the Green to Avon Road. It was found that some footpaths need clearing because of overgrown hedges and a number of marker posts are missing. Information on the areas of concern will be forwarded to ECC for action and a further walk will be arranged shortly.

TREE WARDEN – there has been no further action on the dangerous tree on the bend to Chignal St. James and the land owner concerned will be contacted.

VILLAGE ORCHARD – three sub-committee meetings have taken place since January and the agreement with the Derbyshire Trust has been signed. It is hoped the work by Transcape will commence shortly.

PLANNING

Land North West of Pieces Cottage – new agricultural building – the Parish Council has responded to the application but no decision has been made to date by the City Council.

LATE URGENT BUSINESS – Concern was expressed at the proposed removal of the post box on the Mashbury Road near Chignal Chapel. It was suggested that other Parishes be contacted who are also losing their post boxes to try, as a united front, to reverse the decision.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – the next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday 13th May 2013 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

In Memory of

Dr. Geoffrey Tompkins

Geoffrey died at the end of February, aged 81, after a short spell in hospital, although he had been suffering ill-health for some time.

He had spent his working life as a GP in the East End and he married Janice who was a widow with two young children, Sarah and Emma. They lived in Fyfield until they moved to Thatched Cottage which is opposite the Pig and Whistle public house. He worshipped at Great Waltham Church where he played the organ.

It was at the Pig and Whistle that we first met Geoffrey (or Dr Geoffrey as he was affectionately known by some) when we started to frequent the pub before we had actually moved to the village. Geoffrey was already a regular at the pub – it was a lifeline for him since the death of his wife. He was able to enjoy a hearty meal and of course a glass of red wine which he enjoyed, but most of all he enjoyed the company of the regulars. Geoffrey was dining alone one day and we asked him if he would like to join us and the rest is history because from that moment on every Friday he would join us for dinner. He frequently remarked at the conclusion of a pleasant evening that “we must do this again” or “I do look forward to our Friday evenings together”. Our dining habits soon extended to Tuesday where we would eat prior to propping up the bar as part of the quiz team the Barflies where we had limited success. Medical questions should have been easy with a retired doctor on the team, but failure to answer these questions correctly was often the case and Geoffrey was often heard to exclaim “Oh, I know that if only my brain was working.” He was always generous to a fault supporting the current nominated charity of the quiz night and it was his decision to nominate St. Nicholas Church organ restoration fund for a quiz night donation. So it was quite fitting that his wake was held at the Pig and Whistle where Mark and Tina did him proud with some of his favourite dishes on the menu. Tina and Mark were always concerned for his welfare and would make sure that he got home safely and that if he didn't call in for his usual meal would check that everything was OK.

We are already missing Geoffrey's company, he was a GENTLEMAN in every sense of the word and never had a bad word to say about anybody.

Our condolences go to Sarah and Emma and their families. May he rest in peace.

Hazel and Ken Mead

St. Nicholas' Church

Greetings to you all from St Nicholas Church.

We have very little to report. We are awaiting arrival of our New Priest in Charge, Reverend Caroline Brown, to be licenced at Great Waltham Church Friday May 3rd 7.30pm .Everybody is warmly welcomed. N.B there will be NO service at St Nicholas Sunday May 5th as we are joining forces with Great Waltham and Ford End at Great Waltham Church 10 am. This is to give all three congregations the chance to meet Caroline and each other informally.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Geoffrey Tompkins. He was a keen organist and sang in Great Waltham Church choir, occasionally he played for us at St Nicholas. He was well known and much loved by many parishioners. Our prayers are for his two daughters and their families.

With the arrival of Caroline change is inevitable, a service will be held every Sunday at 11 am; unless otherwise indicated in the Chignal News, to which you are all warmly welcomed.

A very big thank you to all of you who filled in and returned Church electoral roll forms.

Best wishes Tony Towns.(church warden telephone no 440241).

CHURCH YARD TIDY UP SATURDAY MAY 25th 9.30 am ONWARDS.

Coffee tea squash will be provided. Your help would be much appreciated. A lot of fun was had by all who helped last year, come and join us



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