

No. 150  
November  
2011



Villagers from the Chignals, Mashbury and Broads Green attended a coffee morning held in the Chignals Village Hall in honour of "postie" Allan Teale's retirement. Allan has been our postman for over 14 years and we will all miss him, including the dogs. He carried treats for them and they could hear his van coming from a mile off!

He was part of our community and was more than just a postman. It was like having a friend call every day and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Comment from Allan - **To Everybody,**

Thank you for the Coffee Morning. It was great seeing you all, and nice to know I wasn't just the 'Postie'. I do miss the old 'delivery' and the banter I had with you all. It was the best round I had ever been on. If you see a red faced old chap on a bike waving that will be me, so please drive with care. Love Allan the Postie

P.S. Margaret, my child bride, thanks you for the flowers and meeting you all at last

Thanks Again



# Community News

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## **BE BOLD, BE BLUE FOR J's DAY COFFEE MORNING**

A huge thank you to those who supported the Coffee Morning for the J's Hospice held at the Village Hall on Friday 21st October.

Although small in number the generosity of all who came along raised £200.00 for the J's Hospice. Thank you so much. The Hospice are extremely grateful and the money will be put towards caring for Young People aged 18 to 30 years.



Photographs above and below taken at the Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September at the Village Hall. Over £500 was raised for this very worthy cause!



## Pig and Whistle Presentation

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Tony & Mark in the Pig & Whistle .

The next charity being supported by the regular quizzers is Little Havens Hospice.



Tony Towns joined some of the quizzers who raised £1000 towards the restoration of the organ at St Nicholas Church, Chignal Smealey

## St. James Green Telephone Box

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The Parish Council has bought the telephone box from BT for £1. The telephone, that had not been used for a few years, was removed by BT. The box now stands empty ready for us to use as we see fit.

I think it could be useful as a centre for a book exchange. In my experience many of us buy books, read them, enjoy some of them, then they rest on a shelf for a bit, maybe get shared in the family or with friends but then are disposed of in some way or another. Given the huge variety of books available and the voracious appetite of many book readers, it seems to me that we could gain access to books we might not normally dip into while sharing some of the cost if we had a way of sharing books. It is an aspiration at present. The success or otherwise depends on the practicalities, and whether the 'we' I speak of is not just me!

If the box was open for 5 sessions a week including some evenings and access available on request on a mutual basis, would you be interested?

Please send your thoughts and suggestions to [tbox@mfeltwell.demon.co.uk](mailto:tbox@mfeltwell.demon.co.uk) and I will be at the next parish council meeting.

## Winter Salt Gritting in Mashbury

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To help us all get around the Parish more safely, some residents have kindly volunteered to salt-grit Smallshoes Hill when conditions are icy.

The County Council Highways Dept has a scheme to support parishes such as ours who want to grit priority areas. They will provide us with a supply of salt ready packed into 20kg bags, which will be distributed to the volunteers on Smallshoes Hill. We are also grateful to Chris Philpot who has kindly offered to store the initial delivery of salt at Mashbury Hall until it is required.

It should be noted that salt is ineffective when snow lies thicker than ½" and so no treatment will be applied when there is a heavy snowfall.

If anyone in Mashbury feels that the highway outside their property is also dangerous in icy conditions, and they would like to volunteer to spread grit when appropriate, please contact me. The salt supply may only be used on the public highway and it is not for use on driveways or car parks.

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



In August we had an inspirational talk by Mr. Peter Parker who had overcome a stroke in his forties and had, with huge determination, become a wind surfer and marathon athlete. He is also a champion collector for charity, he has been involved in so many events and has met many famous people. He emphasised the need to dial 999 at the slightest symptom of a stroke as the sooner treatment is started the easier will be the recovery. In September we had a third visit from Mr. Dudley Chignall, originally I only booked him because of his name, but he is a most interesting speaker and a magnificent photographer. On this visit he took us through the forests of New Zealand to the spectacular coast. We are looking forward to hearing about a Day in the life of a Burglar in October. I should point out that the speaker is an ex policeman. A few of us recently went on a trip to the East Ruston Vicarage Gardens near Happisburgh in Norfolk, this 32 acre garden is truly awesome and well worth a visit. How nice it was that the coach was driven by Mr. Richard Towns, son of Tony and Helen, Richard was a very helpful and gracious driver. We have recently had two new members join us which is very pleasing, both from outside Chignall. Perhaps some day we will have more members from our villages, we keep hoping!

November 2nd AGM and Christmas tree crafts.

December 1st A Christmas Social

Visitors are always welcome.

Myra Wilkins 440 659

Art Group At the last meeting we looked at the design elements in seed heads and fruits. So many designers have used such things as poppy seed heads as inspiration. We had quite a few extra people joining us as the Christmas Tree Craft group were in action. We are decorating one of the 74 large Christmas trees which will be displayed along the drive to Hyde Hall. All the decorations have to be made from recycled objects and of course have to be tough and weather proof, it is bringing out a lot of creative ideas. I never thought an insideout crisp packet could be turned into a beautiful silver bow. I'm just off to cut up an inside out Alpro carton, as one does !

Details Myra as above.

## Chignall Cricket Club

2011 has been a very good year for both Chignall teams.

The first team after gaining promotion to the premier division of the Mid Essex League in 2010 had a very good season and finish in fifth place, a great achievement.

The second team had an outstanding year and finished as champions of division 10 in the Mid Essex League and will be promoted to division 9 next year.

On our last game of the season at the Chignall ground on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September it was a very warm and sunny day and we were pleased to see so many supporters there. Next season it would be great to have even more support so why not come along and spend a relaxing afternoon at our peaceful and picturesque ground.

As you know running any sort of club costs money and if anyone would like to sponsor the Cricket Club in any way we would be very grateful.

Join our '50 Club' which pays three cash prizes every month of the season (April – Aug) and two larger prizes in November at our AGM. All it costs is £25 a year.

Why not become a vice president by making an annual donation.

Come along to our Race Night on 26<sup>th</sup> November at the village hall, a great evening and one of our biggest sources of income.

Why not become a member and play a few games.

If you are interested in any of the above please contact- Linda Bird 20 Chestnut Walk, Chelmsford, CM1 4JU  
or by phone :- 01245 263279

# Community Orchards & Allotments

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Earlier this year, in 'Chignal News' you may have read about an information event to promote the 'Edible Essex' campaign. This aims to increase the number of people growing, sourcing and using local food in their everyday lives through practical support for the creation or renovation of allotments and orchards. Edible Essex can contribute up to £1,000 towards the capital costs and £200 for revenue expenditure, of the following:

- equipment and tools for communal use;
- equipment for management of the site;
- provision of a water supply;
- provision of boundary fencing or hedging;
- clearance and preparation of site;
- trees for orchards.

Prompted by the possibility of receiving support and grants from the 'Edible Essex' project and from other potential funding sources, there has been some discussion by the Parish Council and by members of the gardening club about creating new village amenities, such as a community orchard or allotments. The Parish Council is unaware of any significant demand for allotments in the village but the idea of planting a community orchard, particularly with old and local varieties, has generated some interest.

Several national organisations such as the Tree Council and Common Ground have been promoting community orchards for several years. These orchards are expected to be open and accessible at all times and be owned or leased by a community group or Parish Council. As well as enjoying being in the orchard, particularly when the trees are in blossom and at harvest time, local people can also share the fruit or profit from its sale and take responsibility for any work in the orchard. The wildlife and educational benefits of orchards are also significant, for example, spring flowers, such as bluebells and snowdrops can be planted between the trees and training sessions, such as fruit tree planting and pruning and processing fruit can be organised for local people.

**Before developing the idea of a community orchard or considering the provision of allotments any further, the Parish Council would like to know what you think about this, for example:**

- **would you wish to have an allotment?**
- **would you support the creation of a community orchard?**
- **where could we site a community orchard in the village?**
- **would you wish to be involved in planning and/or managing a community orchard?**

Please let us know your views by contacting Lynn Ballard by phone: 01245 440880 or by email: [lynn\\_ballard@btinternet.com](mailto:lynn_ballard@btinternet.com)

# Gardening Club

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The Garden Club winter season of meetings got off to a great start on 21<sup>st</sup> September with a talk by Maike Windhorst on Outdoor vegetable growing through all four seasons. Maike and her husband have been organic gardeners in Essex for almost five decades, with the target of being self-sufficient in vegetables. Her talk was full of great ideas borne of real experience such as responding to earlier springs by planting seed potatoes as early as February. There were labour-saving suggestions as well such as composting plant waste on site within contained pathways - a challenge to those who love their compost heaps.

Her method of crop rotation through a system of "rolling rows" and her advice to start small (and succeed) before expanding into all available space were all a testament to hearing from a real gardener.

On 16<sup>th</sup> November, Hilary Thomas, a qualified horticulturalist and garden designer will be talking on Right plant - right place; the importance of soil, aspect and site conditions when selecting plants.

All meetings are at the Village Hall starting at 7.30 and new members are always made very welcome. For more information contact John Dennis (Chairman) on 01245 440289 or Lynn Ballard (Secretary) on 01245 440880.

## From the Borough Council

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### **Recycling:**

Chelmsford Borough Council has begun collecting liquid food and drinks cartons such as Tetra Pak, as part of its kerbside recycling service giving residents to Chelmsford the opportunity to recycle even more of their household waste. Cartons like Tetra Pak are often made up of three different materials; card, plastic and aluminium foil and this makes them difficult to recycle as each material has to be separated. The Council now operates a material sorting facility which is located at its Freighter House depot. Once sorted your cartons are ready to be transported to a recycling reprocessing factory. They are then recycled into a number of different products, ranging from plasterboard liner to high strength paper bags and envelopes. The mix of plastic and aluminium can then be used in furniture to generate energy. For more information on recycling telephone 01245 615800.

### **A Big Splash at Riverside**

The Riverside Ice & Leisure Centre became part of the nation's bigger ever swimming campaign "Big Splash". The Council has joined forces with British Swimming and the BBC to deliver and inspire more people to take up swimming. From September families will be able to swim without splashing out with a half price offer on Sunday mornings. Between 8am and 11am swimming will cost just £2 for adults and only £1 for children (aged 5 – 15 years) This offer is valid for swimming in the main pool and the last admission will be 10.30am.

### **Town Centre Management**

**Retail Market Car Park:** The entire car park will re-open on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Levels 1 and 2 opened recently. The market traders returned to the ground floor on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

**Christmas lights:** switch on for the High Street takes place on 27<sup>th</sup> November and Moulsham Street will switch on its lights on 28<sup>th</sup> November. The theme for celebrations this year will involve our communities and schools in various activities.

**NEWS FROM Councillor Nicolette Chambers Member for Chelmsford Rural West.** Telephone 01245 456719 : [n.chambers@chelmsford.gov.uk](mailto:n.chambers@chelmsford.gov.uk)

# From the County Council

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## Winter Service

As I write this note, we are currently enjoying a spell of Indian summer but the winter season is only a few weeks away (it officially starts on 31<sup>st</sup> October) and some sharp frosts have already been experienced despite sun and blue skies during the day. I am keeping my fingers crossed for a reasonably normal winter season but as we have experienced some exceptional cold spells over the last three years the **County Highways & Transportation Service** is taking no chances. So preparations for the winter season have been underway since last winter and this year, the **County** has:

- Increased its salt/grit stocks from 14,000 tons to 20,000 tons.
- Expanded the free availability of the 1 ton (50 x 20 kg salt bags) to all 360 **Parish Councils** in Essex.
- Reached agreement with all twelve **District and Borough Councils** in Essex to assist Essex Highways in meeting service demand during snow and ice events.

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## Securing the Future of Shire Hall

For those who have observed the construction of new court building in New Street, they may not be aware that when opened it will become the home of the Magistrates Courts that have been operating from the historic Shire Hall in Tindal Square. This will mean a major change of use for the Shire Hall and, as its owner; the **County Council** has been developing options to secure its long term future. The key principles of the **County's** ownership, value for money and public space will underpin any future options for the usage of Shire Hall. The **County Council** will take into account a wide range of views from interested parties such as "**Visioning Chelmsford**" and **Chelmsford Borough Council**, including the plans for Tindal Square and the wider town centre. It is anticipated that the options for development will be completed early in the New Year when a decision on how to proceed will then be made.

The Shire Hall was completed in 1791 to replace the less impressive 16th century Session House. The previous building on this site was the scene of some 250 witch trials by the infamous 'Witch Hunter General' Matthew Hopkins. The current building was designed by John Johnson, the County Surveyor of Essex, and the main building has remained substantially unaltered throughout 200 years of Chelmsford's history. Some internal remodelling of the Georgian building did however take place in the 1930s and the resultant Art Deco style of the period can be seen in the picture room, the main staircase and foyer.

The **County Council** is conscious that the Shire Hall has played a significant part in the history of Chelmsford and Essex and it is committed to securing the Hall's long term future.

Incidentally, the rooms at the Shire Hall can be hired together or separately for balls, conferences, corporate events and meetings. For further information contact 01245 435824 or email [shirehall@essex.gov.uk](mailto:shirehall@essex.gov.uk)

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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 – October / November 2011

# Chignal Parish Council

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UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - A parishioner complained that large lorries are again turning round on Green and deliveries made to the house of the nursery late at night, causing obstructions in the road.

**COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

County Councillor Aldridge sent an update on the current situation at Dale Farm explaining that Basildon Borough Council will start clearing the site on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

Councillor Chambers advised that the Borough Council will implement a scheme for half price swimming on Saturdays as Riverside.

## SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

**PLAYING FIELDS** – reservations were expressed regarding an existing tree/tall hedge on the edge of the playing fields which is restricting vision and it was agreed that the problem be investigated and a report made at the next meeting.

**VILLAGE HALL LIAISON** – the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011 was a Village Hall Committee meeting and there was nothing to report from the meeting.

**NEWSLETTER INCL. WEBSITE** – following the resignation of John Denniss as the central distributor, Martyn Towns agreed to take over the role.

**GRAVEL LIAISON** – some of the ragwort around the bund has been removed but there is still a large amount to be dealt with as the main source of the seed is on an island in the lake.

**VILLAGE WATCH** – numerous thefts have occurred from farms since the last meeting.

**HIGHWAYS** – the theft of manhole covers in the Parish has been reported to ECC. The work to replace the chevron near Ivy Cottage, Chignal Smealey and the broken arm to the signpost at Beadles Corner are still outstanding.

**FOOTPATHS /BRIDLEWAYS** – Julia Smart has replaced Lynn Ballard as the representative for footpaths/bridleways. The latest walk took place on 31<sup>st</sup> August and problems were encountered at Brick Barns and Brittons Hall Farm. The landowners are aware of the problems and ECC has been informed. The copies of the definitive map, to be displayed in the notice boards, have been amended to show the correct positions of Footpaths 7, 12, 16 and 17 and revised routes for bridleways will also be included on the maps.

**TELEPHONE BOX CHIGNAL ST. JAMES** – some maintenance work is to be carried out and it was agreed to use the box as a centre for book exchanges.

**TREE WARDEN** – it was agreed that Lynn Ballard become the Tree Warden replacing Julia Smart and the Borough Council will be informed of the change.

**PLANNING** – Planning applications for Dyers Hall Farm and Beaumont Otes have been approved.

## QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Various events have already been agreed including a concert in the Church, an art exhibition in the Village Hall and a Village Fete. No decision was made on providing a suitable gift for all children in the Parish but it was confirmed that the present number of children between 3 – 18 is 23. Chignal Womans Institute has agreed to donate the proceeds from the annual quiz to fund the various activities.

## INTER VILLAGE OLYMPICS

A list of various possible events was circulated for consideration which will take place between 30<sup>th</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2012. It was agreed that the Parish would like to take part in the proceedings and a further meeting is to take place on 5<sup>th</sup> October with other participating Parishes to discuss the way forward. It was suggested that cricket and carpet bowls be added to the list of possible events.

**PURCHASE OF THE VILLAGE GREEN** – it was confirmed that the Parish is still interested in the purchase from the Borough Council.

**ALLOTMENTS AND VILLAGE ORCHARD** – it was explained that funding is available from 'Edible Essex' should Councillors decide that further allotments and an orchard be acquired. Grants of up to £1,000 are available to cover the cost for a water supply, equipment, tools and trees for an orchard.

It was agreed that an item be included in the Village Newsletter to gauge the amount of interest.

**CHIGNAL SMEALEY PHONE BOX** - it was agreed that BT be contacted regarding the bad condition of the box which is designated as a 'listed building'. The telephone service in the box is to be disconnected shortly but no decision was made on whether the Parish wishes to purchase the box.

**LATE URGENT BUSINESS** – it was announced that the Harvest Festival at St. Nicolas Church will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 3 p.m. followed by refreshments in the Village Hall.

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011



## British Riding Cubs Team Endurance FINAL When and where: The College, Keysoe. 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011.



Two parishioners: Linda Nelson & Justine Rodgers ride for Ingatestone and Blackmore Riding Club (IBRC). They both took part in an Endurance Ride in a qualifying ride at Thetford. Although on different team, Justine's team of three: 'The IBRC Chelmer Chargers' achieved a score at the qualifying Kings Forest ride which put us into 2<sup>nd</sup> place in our league, we managed to maintain this despite being unavailable to partake in another qualifying ride and thus a place at the Final ! Whoo hoo. Linda was asked to join the team as the team could have fourth rider.

Two teams from each League made it through to the Final, all having qualified at any number of Endurance GB (EGB) rides around the country. We were up against local teams such as Cambridge Royals and Huntingdon Hackers as well as teams that had travelled from as far as Somerset, Wales and up North somewhere. Knowing these teams came from areas with hilly terrain and were competing on what is to

them fairly flat going was somewhat off putting. We had to ensure our ride strategy and our crew stops were as slick as possible. The crew are an essential part of the team and really can help the make or break factor. Look after them with plenty of food and drink !

The day was great. There were an abundance of classes going on alongside our one and there was a nervous energy about the place. The vetting area had been marked with dressage boards and flower pots making it that extra special. We presented to the farrier early and all feet good. Next the pre-vetting. Again all OK – phew! Then we were off. We set off in twos, just 5 minutes apart from each other and what a course. This one really made you think. There were narrow wooden bridges to cross, ditches to jump, ploughed fields to negotiate, footpaths to wind round, stubble fields to cross plus lots of twists and turns to be on top of..... but some great great canters. We probably cantered 70% of the course. Although the route had been marked with spray paint on the ground the previous day, heavy rain overnight meant some had potentially been washed away so you needed your map. A number of people took the wrong course which cost valuable time. However our team all made it back in exceptional time although it as still nerve wrecking waiting for the post ride vetting. Result, 3 grade 1's and a grade 2. We hoped this would put us in good stead for a reasonable score.

There was a special prizegiving ceremony at the end of the event for the BRC Team Class and it was good to see all teams attended. EGB have done a great job and had a number of awards from 'Best Presented Team' to Highest Placed Team, Best Individual and Highest Scoring Horse. We thought we had done quite well with our outfit but Solihull Superstars were out there with their bling. Forget stuffy jackets and pompous etiquette, endurance riders are zany and whacky and this is an opportunity to really go for it!! As for IBRC Chelmer Chargers, we were estatic, having achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Novice Team Award (no EGB members) and 4<sup>th</sup> place overall. Not bad for only our 2<sup>nd</sup> EGB ride ever and coming from flat Essex clay. Hence congratulations to Katie Pittaway, Annette Day, Linda Nelson...and myself, and bigger thank you's to the crew.

EGB plan to run this event next year. The concept is fabulous as the team may ride as many times as they choose in the qualifying phase. It's a great deal as you ride between 30-35km (18-22miles) across great countryside for little outlay. And whether at the Qualifier or the Final....it's both exciting and exhilarating and the horses just love it. It brings a new perspective to hacking out as you really start to think about your horse's fitness and stamina, though word of warning – don't forget your own fitness, the whole team were unable to walk for a couple of days!!

**Justine**

# St. Nicholas' Church

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Greetings to you all from St. Nicholas Church. We hope that you all enjoyed the summer. The summer holidays are over but at the time of writing, we are experiencing an 'Indian-Summer'. At the beginning of October we celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving. A very big thank you to all of you who supported us. The church as always, looked delightful, your gifts of lentils will be passed onto 'Harvest for the Hungry', who will distribute them in Eastern Europe, the other items will be given to 'Age Concern; to distribute at their discretion. Following, the service, tea was enjoyed, our sincere thanks to the hall committee for providing us with the village hall. Many thanks also to Julia and Stephen Smart, who spent a few hours giving the organ some attention. The result was well worth the time spent. The organ played well, the best for a very long time.

By the time you receive this letter Christmas will be fast approaching. The Village Carol service is to be held at the United Reform Church; however, we hope many of you will join us for

our crib service, a delightful service for all ages. Diane Garfield; known to many of you, will be conducting the service. A short service will also be held Christmas morning (details of dates and times in 'Dates for your Diary'.

Whatever your circumstances may be, the congregation of St. Nicholas join me in wishing you all peace and joy at this Christmas time. If we can be of any assistance to you by helping with shopping, collecting prescription or maybe you would like a visitor, please feel free to phone Helen or myself. Best wishes Tony Towns, Church Warden (Telephone: 440241)

## Dates for your diary

Morning worship every Sunday at 11 a.m. There is no service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December.





Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10 a.m. Decorating the Church for Christmas.

Children's Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 3 p.m.

Christmas Day 9 a.m. Worship for Christmas.



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