

Chignal Games Makers



There were five Games Makers in our parish which is amazing for such a small community and we all finally managed to get together at the Green, Chignal St James for a photo shoot. Graham was an operational steward for the Olympic Equestrian events at Greenwich, Linda and Carolyn were T3 drivers, Kate worked with the mascot team and Sandra worked with the mobility team.

(Pictured above are: Graham Andrews (back row). From left in the front row: Linda Nelson, Sandra Bailey, Kate Middleditch and Carolyn Ansty.



A Games Maker's Journey by Kate Middleditch

My Games Maker journey began in 2007 when I registered my interest in the London 2012 volunteer programme, and my application was submitted in 2010 with no realistic expectation of being selected, so when I heard that I'd been successful I was both ecstatic and slightly worried about what I had let myself in for.

I was allocated to the Mascot Team and underwent a training day at Hackney College with staff from Rainbow Productions where the mascot costumes and the people who would wear them came from. The costumes were difficult to wear and move about in and were very hot so there was a 30 minute time limit on wearing them. A further day was spent having venue training at the Olympic Park which helped with assessing distances and walking times between venues and also provided a fantastic opportunity to take photographs while it was empty. One more trip up to London was needed to collect my uniform and accreditation, and then, after five years, it was nearly time to take part in the greatest show on earth.

A couple of days before the games began I was lucky enough to be allocated a free volunteer's ticket to one of the technical dress rehearsals for the opening ceremony and I can safely say that it was one of the best experiences of my life. As the stadium filled up and the pastoral theme unfolded we got to play with the electronic boxes on the back of each seat which controlled the lighting effects. It was an amazing spectacle of light and sound and, throughout the show as the momentum built up and we were treated to one surprise after another, huge screens around the top of the stadium urged us to 'save the secret'. I think I need a trip to Specsavers though because during the scenes of the industrial revolution I was blissfully unaware that I was watching a performance by the great Kenneth Branagh (sorry Kenneth). After watching the likes of Mike Oldfield and Emeli Sande, Danny Boyle addressed us all and thanked us for our help.



Once the games got under way I worked ten 8 hour shifts spread over the fortnight, getting up at 5a.m. to be on shift at 7a.m. We were given lunch vouchers and we all ate together - army, police, volunteers and paid employees - in huge canteens with TVs and information points where we could pick up daily newsletters and enter competitions. When the people who put together the daily games maker newsletter for our area discovered that I was a 'mascot minder' they interviewed me and wrote a few words about my wacky job - their words, not mine! My role involved managing the queues of people waiting to have photographs taken with Wenlock, the official mascot of the London 2012 Olympic Games, after his stage appearances, and walking alongside the Wenlock Wagon (a specially adapted golf buggy which carried him around the park) to keep children out of harm's way. On these occasions so many of us surrounded the buggy that we looked like a presidential security detail, the only difference being we didn't talk into our watches. In between Wenlock's appearances I helped with chaperoning musicians and performers around the park and generally made myself useful by giving directions, answering queries as best I could and taking photographs for visitors. Try as I might though, I couldn't get in front of a television camera.

Towards the end of my time at the games our team had a visit from the inspirational and very funny Eddie Izzard, who had been heavily involved in the volunteer programme from the beginning. He gave us each all the time we wanted for photos with him and we thanked him for this kindness by giving him an impromptu performance of a slow motion race to the theme tune from Chariots of Fire which he was polite enough to sit through and applaud.

Sadly, all good things come to an end but before that fortnight I had never seen so many happy people; I was proud to do the job even though it was tiring at times and I smiled until my face ached. When I wore the uniform complete strangers walked up to me and chatted, thanking all of us for volunteering. I was even offered a seat on the tube one day and on another was told by a lady at Stratford station that the whole world loved us. On my last day I received a boxed, specially decorated silver coloured relay baton and a certificate as a thank you; the baton is the exact weight and size of the real thing. Throughout the games we had all received small loyalty gifts now and again, mainly special games maker pin badges but also a journal and an occasional handful of Cadbury's chocolates and, of course, we were allowed to keep that lovely uniform!

I'm glad I took part, it was fabulous. Roll on Rio!



Women's Institute Garden Party at Janet Campen's



Wine Discovery Group

September saw the start of a new year for the wine group. The evening began with a short AGM at which Norman Smith was re-elected chairman, Mike Yardley treasurer and Dave Thomas secretary. Steve Lucas has decided to stand down as publicity officer for a well earned rest

Our speaker for the evening was Colin Legg who is a local tutor on wine. Colin gave a presentation under the title 'Wine Heroes'. This was one of our so called 'Premium evenings' at which we increase our normal budget and hopefully are able to taste wines which are special. Colin's aim was to present six wines from producers in the less traditional wine making areas but who produce wines of exceptional quality.

The wines tasted were:

1. Greywacke Sauvignon Blanc 'Wild Sauvignon' Marlborough, New Zealand 2010
2. Loimer, Teressen, Gruner Veltliner 'Kamptal' Reserve, Austria 2011
3. Heru'Vina Ventisquero' Pinot Noir, Casablanca Valley, Chile 2009
4. Crux 'B' O.Fournier, Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah Malbec, Valle de Uco, Mendoza, Argentina 2007
5. Montes 'Folly', Syrah, Apalta Valley Vineyard, Santa Cruz, Chile 2008
6. Capezzana, Vin Santo di Carmignano Reserva, Trebbiano, San Colombano, Tuscany, Italy 2002

All present agreed that Colin had achieved his aim and that we had tasted some exceptional wines. It is not easy to pick one that stood out because all were of good quality but the final wine which is an Italian sweet wine received particularly favourable comments.



Letter to the Editor

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the villagers for their kind wishes and cards following my marriage on 1st September in Roxwell church. A big thank you too to those who came to see us leave the church, it was lovely to have some friendly faces there, and to all those that helped in the run up to the day and on the day itself – from bell ringing to hedge trimming, you know who you are! We had a wonderful day, surrounded by family and friends, and are looking forward to married life.

I will be back at work following my honeymoon in October, so please do contact me on 07540 720 609 or jo.metson@vaessex.org.uk if you need any help or assistance, or just a friendly chat. I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Jo Pike (née Metson – but I'll answer to both for a while yet!) Village Agent for Pleshey, Mashbury, Good Easter, the Walthams, the Chignals and Roxwell.



At Roxwell Church



The ushers transport from church



Back at Pooty Pools Farm Roxwell

Winter Salt Bag Scheme Extended For Local Communities

More parish councils and local communities will be equipped to deal with icy conditions this winter, with the extension of County Council's winter salt bag scheme. The scheme was launched successfully last year and most parish councils in the Writtle & Broomfield Division took advantage of it by receiving one ton of salt – packaged in sealed 20kg bags. This salt could then be spread by local volunteers on areas of the highway and footpaths causing our residents, particularly the elderly and the very young, the most concern in icy conditions. The salt is intended to cover those roads and footpaths that are not covered by the County Council's precautionary gritting network.

The County Council gritting service covers around 1,900 miles or 40% of the highway network in Essex, including A and B roads and those primary roads which link rural parishes (of over 50 houses) and those served by at least four public bus services a day for five days a week or more. It also covers roads linking sites of national importance (e.g. airports, ports and fuel refineries) and the emergency services.

I have passed on all the papers relating to the scheme (which applies both in the rural and the urban areas of our County) so if you have a specific concern about any area in your locality please contact your parish clerk to see if you can be of help. Incidentally, contrary to popular belief, there is no law stopping you from clearing your local pavements and pathways of snow and ice, providing that you take a careful and common sense approach. This year you will be able to follow the location of our fleet of gritter vehicles online and you can see how the County Council is preparing for winter on the Council's website <http://www.essexhighways.org/Winter-Maintenance.aspx> or telephone 08457 430430

Highways

Whilst on the subject of roads, you may have seen for yourself the extensive coverage of the "blitz" on potholes. At the time of writing, over 35,000 potholes have now been filled across the County using the additional £11million invested in the road network by the County Council to repair the damage caused by the severe weather extremes experienced in the last year or so. It is expected that most of these repairs will be completed by the end of October.

This year Essex Highways are using a piece of machinery called a jet patcher, which is a high pressure patching system, that allows repairs to be carried out quickly and thus reduces disruption to traffic. As this is the first year that the jet patcher is being used, it is being closely monitored to judge the effectiveness and permanence of repairs to determine how they will be carried out in future. For further information go online to www.essex.gov.uk/highways.

If you have any problems concerning **County Council** matters please let me know on 01245 421524 or email cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk

John Aldridge CC – November / December 2012

A Paralympic Experience by Carolyn Ansty

I have some wonderful memories of a very tiring, but fantastic experience. I met some lovely people, stood in iconic venues, listened to crowds cheering and roaring from the various stadia and was really sad when I came back into the Park for my last park-up.

I did the Heathrow run many times, hotel pick-ups and drop-offs, ferried bands around the park, took officials and judges to their sporting events and chauffeured IPC country members, LOCOG representatives and Sponsors to wherever required. I even got to Eton Dorney and watched some rowing before picking up a passenger to take back to London. Nationalities included Bosnian, Danish, Cuban, American, Australian, Brazilian, various African nations, some I haven't a clue where they were from and some who looked foreign and turned out to be very English.

I will not miss getting up at 4.30am for the early shifts or getting back at midnight and beyond from the lates. Nor will I miss some very long periods of 'staging' (on standby for lifts) in some pretty uninspiring locations – northern staging, for one, at Heathrow (on the perimeter road waiting to be called to whichever terminal) – the porta loos were grim. However the Athletes Village was a great place to people watch so waiting there was interesting, entertaining and colourful. Disabilities? What disabilities – this was definitely about ability and amazing agility. Westfield shopping Centre also proved very popular with teams, via a gateway directly from the Village.

I drove 7 different makes and models of vehicles in my 14 shifts, from BMW saloons and tourers, to Ford and Citroen MPVs and a couple of wheelchair accessible vehicles (Peugeot and Citroen).

But something else I will remember is how people spontaneously chatted to me: on the station platform, in hotels, on the street. There seemed hardly an unhappy person in London over this summer. An amazing atmosphere. Even the taxi and bus drivers weren't too aggressive, which considering we were delaying their schedules, clogging the roads and whizzing past them in the 'games lanes' was pretty surprising. But I have to admit - it was rather cool driving down the games lanes past the queuing traffic and along the red carpet of the M4.

And now? Well I'm still living the memories and holding back the urge to volunteer for the winter Olympics in Russia or, in four years' time, a trip to Brazil.

Dates for your Diary

Christmas Coffee & Mince Pies Morning

Saturday 8th December

10 - 12 a.m.

Village Hall, Chignal St James

Raffle and Bring & Buy



Saturday, 1st December, 2012

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

- Venue – Willingale Village Hall
- Doors open at 19.00 for start at 19.30
- Teams of 8 but flexible up to 10
- Cost - £10 per head
- Ploughmen's supper will be served during the interval
- Bar will be open throughout the evening
- To book a table, telephone Ian Kerwin on 01245 248382

Chignal Parish Council

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2012 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillor Aldridge explained that ECC has set up a Countywide Travellers Unit and a speed restriction review is to instigated with some roads being restricted to 20 mph. Cllr. Aldridge reported that with a budget of £1m, any possible highways projects should be routed through him or the Highways Panel for consideration.

Councillor Chambers explained that she would report back following the Cabinet meeting on 11th September when more information would be available. It is hoped that a Royal Visit will be arranged to commemorate Chelmsford's 'City' status in the near future.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

PLAYING FIELDS – the field will be used on 13th October by a caravan club and may also be used on 20th October for a tractor event.

NEWSLETTER incl. WEBSITE – the editor apologised for the late delivery.

GRAVEL LIAISON – no meeting has not been arranged but some concerns need to be addressed and Councillor Aldridge agreed to investigate whether a meeting will take place shortly.

HIGHWAYS – an updated map will be forward to the Highways Department showing potholes throughout the Parish. Problems with litter were reported and details of the worst affected areas will be forwarded to Councillor Chambers who will investigate the problems.

FOOTPATHS/BRIDLEWAYS – a programme of walks is to be finalised but it was reported that the footpath at Chignal Hall House is blocked and the problem will be investigated.

TELEPHONE BOXES – it was reported that shelves to the box at Chignal St.James will be fitted shortly and the box at Chignal Smealey has recently been painted.

TREE WARDEN – it was reported that concern has been raised on the condition of the poplar trees but, following investigation, it was confirmed that there is no serious problem. Concern has also been raised on the safety of a tree covered in ivy on the first bend from Chignal Road and contact will be made with the land owner requesting information on the condition of the tree,

PLANNING – Chignal Hall Farm – siting of 4 storage containers for Young Farmers annual show – a decision is awaited from the City Council.

PROGRESS OF PARISH ORCHARD – a meeting was held on 15th August and a small management committee formed which met for the first time on 22nd August to discuss funding. A bid has been made to Edible Essex and a draft request to Lafarge for funding is being prepared. Lafarge has agreed, in principle that it is prepared to provide funding for the project on the understanding that 10% in cash be provided from another organisation. The Parish Council agreed to support the funding of the orchard.

LATE URGENT BUSINESS

Vacancy for Councillor – some interest has been shown in the vacancy and it is hoped to co-opt a parishioner on to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

Noise from Scout Jamboree – a complaint was made on the unacceptable level of noise late at night from the recent jamboree and the licensing laws will be checked for clarification on times activities should cease.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – the next meeting will be held on Monday 12th November 2012 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

St. Nicholas' Church

Greetings to you all from St. Nicholas Church.

Autumn has arrived, and no doubt like me you are enjoying the changing scenes of the country side ,the richness of the colours, the tidiness of the land, giving a feeling of satisfaction for gardeners and farmers. We live in a resourceful part of the world, fresh water and food is plentiful, family and friends giving us fellowship and friendship. As we approach the harshness of winter may we not forget the lonely and housebound in our community? If you need shopping or maybe someone to talk to, do phone me and I will try to help meet your need.

Christmas is fast approaching. The united village carol service' will be hosted by us at St Nicholas. We will as is customary be holding a Children's Crib service 3pm Christmas eve. Diane Garfield will be officiating at this service. A service will be hold Christmas Day at 9am.




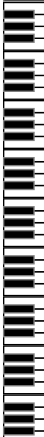


During August we have had three baptisms, Chloe Molly ,daughter of Alex and Lindsey

Watson Golden, some of you might remember her mother Lindsey Watson ,formally of Chignal St James, Megan Lily ,daughter of Edward and Alison Mawer. Many of you will know Edward, grandson of Beryl and Norman Wasterney, son of Julie and Tony, Hugo James great grandson of June of The Gatehouse , son of Mathew and Jenna Reed. Mathew and Jenna married at St Nicholas 2010. We wish all three children and their families God's blessing.

Best wishes, Tony Towns (telephone no 01240440241).

A SERVICE IS HELD EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 11am UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED,TO WHICH EVERYONE IS WARMLY WELCOMED TO. Please NOTE there will be NO service at 11am on Sunday 23rd December a carol service will be held at 3pm.

		
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