

No. 168
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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

Chignal News

The Orchard Dedication

How wonderful the 5th October turned out to be! the tree dedication to those affected by WW1, the fruit swap and the bring and share lunch was supported and enjoyed by many on what was a glorious day. Many thanks to the Rev. Caroline Brown for leading the dedication.

Do visit the orchard and see the tree along with a very smart plaque in commemoration.

If you haven't already done so, pencil in your next years diary the 3rd January, for a return of the Wassailing event. Time is 5pm and final arrangements are still being made. Do you know anyone who has and would be happy to lend a loud hailer? It would have to be battery operated as we have no electricity to hand. Could you email by return if you know of one available.

There is still space in The bug hotel for more rooms, so if anyone would like to add some spooky rooms for Halloween, please feel free! The orchard is looking really smart at the moment, so take a wander in when you are passing. Keep the comments going on the board!

Kind regards

Sandra and the Orchard committee



Chignal Wine Discovery Group

The group do not meet in August so we were all looking forward to September's tasting. We were not disappointed! Having heard late August that the expected external presenter was unable to attend Steve Lucas jumped in at the last minute with little time to prepare. But what a great selection of wines he brought with him and a highly entertaining accompanying speech. Interesting and varied the evening was entitled 'Around the World in.... 80 minutes'. A whistle-stop tour of 6 wine producing regions of the world.

We tasted wines from 6 countries - 3 whites, 2 reds and 1 dessert.

The wines were:

France (Côte de Provence) - Sainte Victoire 2013 Famille Negrel

Argentina (Famatina Valley) – *Tilimuqui Single Vineyard Torrontes* 2013

Italy (Piedmont) – Gavi 2013 La Toledana

New Zealand (Marlborough) – Giesen 'The Brothers' Pinot Noir 2012

Australia (McLaren Vale) – 'Angels' Share' Shiraz 2012 Two Hands

USA (California) –Elysium 2012 Andrew Quady

Thanks to Carolyn and Chris for providing the delicious cheeseboard.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

We raised over £260 for Macmillan Cancer Support at the coffee morning last Friday at the village hall.

Thank you all so much for all your baking, crafts, donations, books, tea brewing, serving, washing up, sweeping up and everything else that had to be done to make it such a success.

All of the balloons and other Macmillan materials did double duty at the Three Elms the following day, along with the rest of the books and some cake we had left.

Thank you all again,
Kate



Left - Kate, Lynn and Cherry serving drinks at the Macmillan coffee morning
Right - K6 Chignal St James



Women's Institute

Our October Meeting was extremely interesting when Suzanne Barr told us the History of Buttons and showed us her fantastic collection of buttons made of linen, glass, wood, mother of pearl and of course plastic.

The Social Evening on the 40's and 50's was very successful and enjoyed by all who attended. On the 9th October the Sugar Craft day given by Mrs. Enid Roberts was attended by nine members and friends, and very professional sugar Christmas Trees and candles were produced, and I believe a few choirboys and penquins!

Our Next Meeting will be on Thursday November 6th, 2.00 pm for 2.30 pm. Do come and join us. Visitors Welcome.

Mobile Library

The mobile library now visits Chignal St James Green on alternate Fridays between 12.15 and 12.30p.m. The new driver for the service is Ron, pictured on the mobile library steps, with customers Lynn Ballard and Kate Middleditch.

The dates for the service until August 2015 are:

Oct – 3, 17, 31	Nov – 14, 28	Dec – 12
Jan – 9, 23	Feb – 6, 20	Mar – 6, 20
Apr – 17	May – 1, 15, 29	Jun – 12, 26
Jul – 10, 24	Aug – 7, 21	

Books can be ordered online at essex.gov.uk/libraries and be collected from the mobile library without charge. The loan period is 6 weeks and book loans can also be renewed online if required.



Ron, Lynn and Kate
at the mobile library



Bowls Club

We have now played our first game in "the league" .On the last Thursday in September we played Tipps Cross at home. This ended in an official draw although our "shots" total was higher. A very good result considering Tipps Cross were last years winners of the league. We had a good evening playing two pairs and two fours with tea and refreshments following and a "sports names" raffle competition. Our next match in the league is again at home, this time against Stock.

Our next "friendly" matches are on the 30th September at home against Black Notley and on the 28th October away at Ford End.

We are having a Quiz and Ploughmans Supper on Friday 7th November at 7.30 pm which is open to members and non-members alike.

The next social occasion, not to far away, is our Xmas Supper on Friday 12th December.

Members please note that decorations will be put up in the hall on the morning of Thursday 4th December.

Dates for your Diary

FRIDAY 21st NOVEMBER

WHIST DRIVE

7.30 p.m. at CHIGNAL VILLAGE HALL

£2.50 ENTRY INCLUDES LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

Prizes for the raffle would be welcome

Festive Coffee & Mince Pies Morning

Saturday 6th December 2014

10 a.m. until 12 noon at the village hall.

Come along and catch up with friends over coffee and mince pies at the village hall. There's always a lovely festive atmosphere as the Bowls Club decorates the hall for Christmas.

There will be a raffle and festive bring & buy; Phoenix Cards will be in attendance for all your last minute cards and gift wrap shopping.

Items for the raffle and Bring & Buy would be welcome

***All profits from these events to village hall maintenance and refurbishment costs**

In Memory of Norman Herbert Wastenev

25th October 1935 – 9th July 2014

Norman Wastenev, one of the longest serving members of the Chignals and Mashbury Village Hall Management Committee, passed away peacefully at Broomfield hospital surrounded by his family on July 9th 2014, aged 78.

Norman was a very active and involved member of his community and was well liked by all who knew him.

Before Norman was elected to the committee the village hall was in dire straits, as secretary and caretaker Cherry Scott remembers.....

In 1966 the village hall held an extraordinary meeting as most of the committee had decided to retire and the hall was in danger of closing because of lack of support. The hall was in a bad way financially. Norman was elected on to the new committee and after a short time became treasurer, a position he held for the next 48 years.

The committee started holding a fete in the playing field in 1967. Norman brought his caravan to the field to provide a base to work from and he also borrowed a tent for the same purpose from his place of work, Ernest Doe, but the tent always proved quite difficult to put up.

The first fete raised just over £100, mostly in small change, which he put in a washing up bowl and took to the bank. After being presented with this unusual container the bank staff suggested that he might like to bring it in money bags in future.

About 18 years ago Norman invited the village hall committee to hold a Garden Fete at his home at Woodhall in conjunction with the Farm Machinery Preservation Society who would organise a rally of vintage vehicles. This proved a great success and several thousand pounds were raised for village hall funds over the years, which has enabled the committee to carry out many improvements to the hall.

Norman and his fellow committee members carried out a great deal of practical work around the village hall to save labour costs. He was delighted when the committee finally managed to raise enough funding to build the new toilet block. Due to ill health he reluctantly agreed to the committee returning the fete to the village hall in 2013.

In addition to his work as treasurer of the village hall he was a member of the parish council for over 20 years from 1961 to 1983, a trustee of the Woollard Charity, and a vice president of the Chignal Cricket Club.

He will be greatly missed for his unstinting support of the village hall.

We extend our sympathies to his wife Beryl, children Julie, Nigel and Jackie, his sister Mary and their families.



“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 any of the following telephone numbers:

**01245 440528 - (Barbara), 01245 442474 - (Gill), 01245 440241 - (Helen), 01245 440880 - (Lynn), 01245 445245 - (Sandra), 01245 443497 - (Sarah)
01245 231758 – (Anne)**

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

Please call us if you need help with transport to the ‘Coffee Morning’ held on the first Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall...all are welcome.

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

Chignal Parish Council Meeting 8th September

Present:

Cllr Miss Lynn Ballard (Chair)

Cllr Mr. Steve Middleditch

Cllr Malcolm Feltwell

Cllr Ms Linda Nelson (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Mr Andrew Jenkins

Cllr Mr. Chris Philpot

Cllr Mr. Martyn Towns

In Attendance:

Cllr John Aldridge Essex County Council

Mrs. Janet Mills (Parish Clerk) and 13

Parishioners

1. Apologies For Absence

Cllr Nicolette Chambers Chelmsford City Council

2. Register Of Declarations Of Interests

None Recorded

3. To Approve The Minutes Of The Meeting 14th July 2014

With an amendment to the pre-meeting announcement item, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising From The Minutes

(a) Draft Restoration Plan

It had been established that the PC would need to apply for community project funding via the Lafarge-Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund. The meeting of the Communities Fund Committee that would determine funding applications was to be held on the 16 October 2014. The required 10% third party contribution requirement remained an issue, as the PC had no funds to meet the costs. It had been intimated that Lafarge-Tarmac in recognition for the additional disturbance caused to residents by the overtipping might be able to meet the cost of the third party funding. This was yet to be confirmed. A second meeting requested by Lafarge-Tarmac, to discuss a prioritised list of projects was to be arranged.

Gardening Express

Following meetings with the City Council planners, Gardening Express had been asked to submit a planning application for a packing shed that was to include

proposals of how space might be provided to get the huge delivery lorries and employees' cars off the road.

(b) Bank Account Permissions

The Clerk gave note of thanks to Cllr Philpot for forwarding an online application form to complete. There had been a number of technical difficulties in completing the form. Work was ongoing.

(c) Notice Boards

The PC gave a note of thanks to the owner of the Pig and Whistle Public House who had agreed to re-site the Public Notice Board to a prominent position on the wall of Public House on the condition that, at his own expense, it could be painted to match the business' corporate colours. There were no objections to the painting of the notice board so long as the Parish Council Name remained a prominent feature. The PC would need to replace one window as this had broken in recent days. Cllr Towns would look into the maintenance of this and the other Public Notice Boards in the village.

5. Public Question Time

a) The meeting noted that concerns were again raised regarding a pot hole near to Gardening Express. Two residents had sustained significant damage to their vehicles, both had reported the pot hole to the Highways Department and where claiming compensation. The matter appeared to be outstanding since December 2013.

b) Concerns were raised regarding the need to cut back hedges near to the Three Elms Public House and on the bend near to Gardening Express. Members agreed to speak with the land owners regarding the matter.

c) The owner of Chopyn's Barn informed the meeting that he had raised a formal objection to the proposed development on Land North of Copperfield Road. In his opinion this was not a 'stand alone' application and should be considered alongside another proposed neighbouring development.

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- c) He outlined his main concerns that the proposal was contra to Chignal's Village Design Statement. He also raised grave concerns for public safety with the proposed development of the road junction at Hollow Lane. The meeting was advised that the PC had drafted an initial response raising many of the same concerns to the proposal. This matter was to be discussed further at item 9b of this agenda.
- b) A member of the public raised concerns regarding a planning proposal at 'Hillcroft' Chignal Road, to erect a new detached chalet style dwelling house with detached garage. The meeting was advised that the PC had considered a recent planning proposal to erect one dwelling on land between properties on Chignal Road and had commented that this was 'infill'. Concerns were raised that this might become a precedent which could lead to the filling of every gap between properties and thus spoil the intrinsic quality of the area.
- c) In order to seek public opinion regarding the proposed restoration plan the Chairman took a 'straw poll' regarding whether the community would wish the site to have public access or no public access. Out of 13 members of the public present, 7 were in favour of public access, 2 were in favour of no public access, and 4 people abstained. With regard to the opinion of the PC Members: 4 Members were in favour, 2 were against and 1 Member abstained.

6. Initial Consultation On The Future Governance Of Mashbury.

Mrs Moria Tarrant reported that maintaining Mashbury as an independent parish was no longer sustainable. For this reason Mrs Tarrant had approached the Parish Council as part of a consultation exercise to gain an indication as to whether there would be support for the inclusion of the governance of Mashbury into the Chignal Parish Council. Mashbury could be included within other neighbouring parishes.

To take things forward there were two choices for action:

1. Amalgamate with a neighbouring Parish
2. Cease to be a Parish

To achieve a petition to Chelmsford City Council, at least 40 signatures, asking them to review Parish boundaries was needed.

It was recognised that historically the village of Mashbury and the Chignals had close links and undertook many joint community events. For that reason amalgamation with Chignal Parish was considered a preferred option.

A letter explaining the situation and the options would be sent to the 76 residents of Mashbury shortly. After a brief discussion Members resoundingly agreed in principle, that to include Mashbury into the Governance arrangements of the Chignal Parish Council, was a welcome and logical move.

7. Chairman's Report

The Chairman advised the meeting as follows:

- a) In order to further develop the Governance arrangements of the PC, The Clerk would be drafting a number of policies and procedures for approval at the January meeting of the Council.
- b) In order to further the development of a Parish Plan, it had been proposed that the organisers of various clubs and groups meet together in October or November to discuss how local events across the parish could be coordinated. The Chairman proposed and Cllr Jenkins seconded a motion, that the PC should pay £15.00 for the hire of the village hall for the meeting. With no objections the motion was carried.
- c) The Rural Community Council was holding a meeting regarding Parish Plans on the 30th October. Cllrs Ballard, Cllr Nelson agreed to attend.

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- d) Mobile Library- due to lack of support the mobile library would no longer be available in two places in the Chignals. In future the library would only be sited on the village green on alternate Fridays from 5th September between 12.15 pm and 12.30 pm. PC Members were disappointed that there appeared to be no consultation regarding the changes. It was suggested that the Library could also be sited at the Village Hall during the monthly Wednesday Coffee Mornings. This would allow for more people to use the facility and for better physical access. The suggestion would be put forward to the library van driver for consideration.
- e) Complaint- the Chairman had responded to an email complaint regarding the felling of a cricket bat willow trees on private land in the village. The Clerk would respond regarding the process for notification of tree felling licences.
- 8. County And City Councillors' Reports**
Cllr John Aldridge gave the following report:
Community Compensation. With regard to the matter of community compensation for the over tipping, having raised a matter of legality, Cllr Aldridge had established that the ECC planning department could not be involved in matters of compensation and that consideration of the retrospective Planning Application associated to excess waste would be delegated to Officers of ECC.
Gardening Express. With regard to Gardening Express, a Member of the PC had met with Cllr John Aldridge and Cllr Rodney Bass ECC Cabinet Member for Highways. ECC Officers had considered the problem and had forwarded a table outlining a number of traffic management enforcement options that might alleviate the problems created by the deliveries to the nursery. It was concluded, with regret, that none of the proposed permissible options would entirely solve the problem. It now appeared enforcement would need to be a Police Matter. Cllr Nicolette Chambers had

raised the matter with the newly appointed Police Inspector, who had assured that the Police would be responsive to any problems.
The Future of Post Offices. The change to tariffs on Postmasters would result in the post offices diminishing. Cllr Aldridge outlined the proposed changes and new arrangements in Writtle which would be going out to public consultation shortly. If agreed the new arrangements would begin in the New Year. The Post Office in Roxwell had already closed.

Essex County Council – Cllr Aldridge informed the meeting that he was no longer a Cabinet Member of the ECC and gave details of the new cabinet Members and their roles and responsibilities.

Passing Places. Cllr Aldridge was pleased to announce that funding had been approved to undertake work on the passing places in Chignal Smealey. At the request of the PC, he had requested that the work be undertaken before this winter rather than the proposed April 2015 completion date.

9. Planning Applications

The following decisions were noted:
14/00863/FUL Forge Cottage Chignal Smealey: Part retrospective application for the installation of a 1.8m high fence. Decision Still Pending
14/01094/FUL Stevens Farm, Chignal St James: Application 1 change of use from office to residential. Application Withdrawn
14/01094/FUL Stevens Farm, Chignal St James: application 2 Alterations to existing cart shed to create 3 bedroom dwelling house. Decision Still Pending

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New Applications

The notes from Planning Meeting held at 7.30 pm on 30th July at 3 Pitt Cottages which considered the Countryside Properties planning application, 14/00976/FULWestern Parcel Land North Of Copperfield Road Chelmsford development of 60 residential dwellings together with associated and ancillary development including access, road works to Hollow Lane, servicing, amenity space and landscaping were received. The Chairman reported that comments from local people and comments from Broomfield Parish PC had been included when drafting the following initial response.

Chignal Parish Council Initial Response

1. As a general point, we have serious concerns about the proposed road and pedestrian access arrangements for the housing development by Countryside Properties as they are predicated on connections to a new arterial road and pedestrian paths that may or may not be provided by the developer of the adjacent site. There needs to be another road/pedestrian access onto the Copperfield Road development and existing rights of way should be retained and not substituted by urban pavements.

2. The plan showing a new arterial road to be constructed by Persimmons indicates a proposed diversion of Chignal Road from the north to feed into this new road, making traffic from Chignal Smealey/Great Waltham give way. We consider this to be unacceptable due to the greater flow of traffic that already uses this route and instead suggest a T junction with the existing Chignal Road.

3. The current Hollow Lane junction with Chignal Road has a rural character and as can be seen from the photograph on page 19 of the Chignal Villages Design Statement (VDS), approved Sept 2009, it is part of the setting for the listed buildings, Chobbings Farmhouse and Chopyns Barn. The VDS and the Local Development Plan call for the setting of the historic buildings around Hollow Lane/Chignal Road to be protected. The proposed junction realignment on Countryside Properties' 'standalone proposals' plan would totally change the rural character of this junction and

have a detrimental impact on the setting of the listed buildings. A Local home owner raised concerns that the development was not in keeping with the Village Design Statement and would spoil the intrinsic setting of the area. It was not a 'standalone' application. Grave concerns for public safety were also raised with the proposed development of the road junction at Hollow Lane.

4. Vehicles accessing the Countryside Properties' housing site should not have right of way over Hollow Lane traffic. Consideration should be given to crown lifting the existing mature oak to ensure visibility for vehicles leaving and entering the housing estate access road.

5. We would expect a Section 106 contribution by the developer to widen the Chignal Road/Roxwell junction because of the additional traffic that would be generated. There is a concern about the amount of additional traffic that will be generated on Chignal road by the proposed development as this is already used as a 'rat-run' by drivers via Great Waltham.

6. As there appears to be no immediate intention for CCC to alter their boundaries to adopt this part of Chignal Parish, we would have to consider the implications of having 60 extra houses in our community. In that case it is appropriate for this residential development to be consistent with our Village Design Statement, in terms of scale, setting, materials, design etc. For example, see pages 20 – 21 of the VDS:

Building materials that blend with the local environment, in particular brick, timber, flint and clay pantiles, should be used.

It is important in a rural community to provide views of the countryside beyond and thus avoid urbanisation of the street scene.

The use of concrete, tarmac or block paving are not well suited to rural settings where traditional materials such as shingle are more appropriate and assist with rain water drainage. Existing hedges should be retained wherever possible and new boundary walls or fences should reflect the essentially rural character of the area. High Brick boundary walls with metal gates, or high front fences are generally inappropriate in a rural setting

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and should be discouraged.

The majority of residents agree that there is a strong community spirit within the Chignals that could be damaged by substantial development. It is seen as inevitable that there will be some measure of change in the Chignals. This should be done sensitively and in keeping with local characteristics.

The existing absence of street lighting in the parish is welcome and should continue.

7. The only mention of foul sewage drainage appears to be in the Planning Statement prepared by GL Hearn, p. 36 para. 6.67 *Foul sewage* is proposed to be discharged to existing foul sewers. Local knowledge suggests that the current drainage systems for both surface and foul sewage are already overloaded so we would urge further investigation.

8. The impact of the development on the community services such as schools and GP surgeries which are already stretched does not appear to be addressed. There is also concern about the noise and dust that will be generated during construction.

The Parish Council's conclusion is that this application cannot stand alone and should therefore be refused. It should be considered alongside a planning application for the adjoining residential site to be developed by Persimmons Homes.

Application 14/01418/FUL 2 Brick Barns Cottages Chignal St James-for the removal of existing single story side addition and construction of single story rear addition and two story side addition was considered. The following comment was made: No Objection.

10. **Application for Grant Funding.**

Members considered the application from the Rev'd Baisby on behalf of St Nicholas Church for funding towards the cost of a professional Tree Surgeon to attend to 2 Yew Trees and a Californian Red Wood in the Churchyard. Cllr Philpot proposed and Cllr Nelson Seconded a motion that £350.00 grant funding be given. With no objections the motion was held.

11. **Councillor Training.**

The matter was considered. Cllr Middleditch explained the relevance of the course. Cllr Philpot proposed that Cllr S. Middleditch should attend the Social Media Training course 8th October

2014 at a cost of £45.00. Cllr Nelson seconded the motion. With no objection the motion was carried.

12. **Jubilee Orchard Committee**

The meeting noted the minutes and budget position from the Committee meeting held on 3rd July and received the following verbal update from the Committee representative.

A working party had been arranged for Saturday 13th September, volunteers would be welcome.

To coincide with Harvest Festival a 'Picnic to Share' event was jointly being arranged with members of the Church on 5th October. Work was underway to organise a second Wassailing Event planned for 3rd January 2015.

The Bug Hotel appeared to have been a great success and it had been mentioned on a blog comment board.

13. **Representatives' Reports –**

the Meeting noted the following reports:

A) **Playing Field**

Broomfield Football Club would not be using the playing field this season.

Work to cut back the hedges was now a priority.

The work needed to be undertaken before the next PC meeting. To this end the Chairman proposed and Cllr Nelson seconded the Motion that up to £250.00 should be set aside to undertake the work. Cllr Towns would progress the work.

B) **Village Hall Liaison**

A Halloween event was planned for 31st October in the Village Hall.

The Hall Committee were tentatively looking at proposals for the development of the Hall.

C) **Newsletter Including Website**

The latest news letter had been completed and would be available shortly.

D) **Gravel Liaison**

With regard to the restoration plan, the result of the 'straw poll' regarding whether there should or should not be public access was noted.

E) **Village Watch**

There had been no reported crimes since the last report. A note of thanks was given to local parishioners that had reported suspicious activity in the village to the Police. A dedicated Rural Crime Liaison Officer, who would mainly work with Farmers in the area, has been appointed.

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F) Highways

The PC had been notified that funding had been made available to undertake the work required to improve the passing places in Chignal Smealy, work would be completed by April 2015. The PC with the support of Cllr Aldridge, had approached the Highways Department to request the work be undertaken before this winter. Concerns regarding hedge cutting were noted, local land owners would be approached.

G) Footpaths/Bridleways

It had been reported that the Bridleway at Beadles Hall was very boggy. The newly appointed officer at the CC would look into how improvements could be made. It had been noted that there was a telegraph pole forming a potential illegal barrier on the bridleway. Investigations regarding this were ongoing.

H) Telephone Box - Chignal St. James

This was to be professionally painted next month.

I) Tree Warden

Cllr Ballard would be attending the Braintree District Council Tree Warden Forum to be held on 4th October 2014.

14. Finance

a) Balances in accounts were as follows: Current Account £2,847.34 , Savings Account £4,717.52. The Clerk informed the meeting that the accounts for last year had been signed by the External Auditor. The Statutory Notice would be posted to notice board shortly. The public could arrange an appointment to view the papers between 15th and 30th September.

b) Cheques issued since the last meeting were as follows: Chelmsford DBF £67.34, S.Middleditch £18.96, PC Insurance Policy £181.26, External Auditor £120.00.

15. Correspondence For Information

The Clerk circulated to Members a number of publications for information.

16. Late Urgent Business

Planning Application 14/01320/OUT Land at Hillcroft Chignal Road Chignal Smealy

- New detached chalet style dwelling house with detached garage.

To meet the planning deadline for comments the above planning application, was considered. The following comments were given:

The following comments were given.

'The Parish Council did not consider the proposed residential development as infill. In the Chignal Villages Design Statement, (page 18) reference is made to "the trees and hedges in and around the good sized housing plots in the Woodhall area of Chignal Smealey helping to maintain the rural feel and the gaps between the properties emphasise the rural location by showing that there are no buildings behind". Concerns were raised regarding access with limited sight-lines on a bend, on to the Chignal Road'.

17. Date of Next Meeting 10th November 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Gardening Club

In October we learned about the fascinating life of one of our most loved and familiar of garden insects: Bumblebees. John Taylor from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust told us why they are so special. For example, they are larger and hairier than other bees and their extra insulation allows them to venture out on cold days. Their nests are small and as they don't build up a large food store, there're more sensitive to the availability of nectar rich flowers to feed on. Gardeners and farmers rely on bumblebees to pollinate many important food crops such as beans, peas, tomatoes, oil seed rape and raspberries. When these crops have flowered, the bees will move into our gardens to feed so it's vital that we plant nectar rich plants: foxgloves, lavender, hardy geraniums, herbs and wild roses are particular favourites. The Royal Horticultural Society has produced a comprehensive list of bee friendly plants, www.rhs.org.uk

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 19 November at 7.30pm** in the village hall when we'll hear all about "*Designing a new border*", by Darren Lerigo, who has recently moved his successful garden design business, Modern Mint, www.modernmint.co.uk from Hampshire to Essex. Following Darren's talk, our next speaker on **21 January** is Maike Windhorst who will tell us about "*The Flower Arranger's Garden*".

If you're interested in either of these talks, please feel free to come along. For more information, please contact Graham Andrews (Chairman) on 01245 442625 or Lynn Ballard (Secretary) on 01245 440880.

Halloween Fun Evening

A very successful Halloween themed Family Fun Evening was held on Friday 31st October which raised around £300 for village hall funds.

About 70 ghouls, witches and scary looking characters gathered in the Community Jubilee Orchard prior to setting off on a 'pumpkin parade' across the orchard and playing field to the village hall where all the carved pumpkin lanterns were put on display on the stage, making a spectacular show.

Everyone enjoyed a supper of soup, rolls and hot dogs followed by apple pie and cream for the adults while the children had a special cake decorating station where they iced their own scary cupcake desserts. After a raffle was drawn the children were entertained with outdoor games, bobbing for apples and a lucky dip.

Scott Thomas won the prize for best child's costume, and Sebastian Leadbeatter won the prize for best child's carved pumpkin. Both boys were rewarded with a certificate, a 'gold' medal and a selection of Halloween chocolates. All of the children received certificates and sweets from the village hall committee in appreciation of all the effort they had put into their costumes and lanterns.

The best adult's costume winner was John Manning, aka The Grim Reaper, and best adult's pumpkin lantern prize went to Julia Emberton for her design of a witch on a broomstick silhouetted against the moon. Congratulations to the winners, and well done to all the grown-ups who really got into the spirit of the evening and produced some superb costumes and pumpkin lanterns.

The organising committee would like to thank everyone who helped to make this event so successful and enjoyable; all the hard work and commitment resulted in a memorable community event. We are fortunate that in our three small villages there are so many people who are prepared to give so generously of their time and talents.

Kate Middleditch, on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee.



St. Nicholas' Church

St Nicholas' Church might be made for Harvest Festival! 25 adults and 6 children gathered in the beautifully-decorated church to give thanks for harvest blessings, and in particular to think of the blessing of having clean, plentiful water. Chris Philpot's very interesting talk made everybody think. Then Rev Caroline went on to the Community Orchard for the tree blessing, another lovely community event.

We now come to the season of Remembrance, and the **All Souls Memorial Service at Ford End Church at 10 a.m. on Saturday 1 November** is when we particularly remember those we have loved and lost. Everybody is welcome to come along to what is always a very touching and gentle service which is followed by refreshments and a chance to chat.

Then we have **Remembrance Sunday, 9 November** this year. Do come along to St Nicholas to pay our tribute to those who fought and died for freedom. We shall be remembering those lost from the hamlets of Chignal St James, Chignal St Nicholas and Mashbury, all of whom are named on the war memorials in the church. The service will start a little earlier than usual on Sundays, at **10.55 a.m.** to allow us to have the two-minute silence at 11. It would be lovely if we had some young people there too, to represent the generation we all pray will never know the scourge of war.

It seems ages since the Tour de France, but what good memories! That was a great community event, wasn't it? Thanks to the generosity of the village that day, and some subsequent kind donations, there is about £1,000 in the kitty towards the church repairs and developments already, and a Friends Committee looks like a possibility. That would be so good – perhaps we can begin to formalise something over the winter.

In the meanwhile we need to think about Christmas (groan! already?). We are going to sing carols in the Three Elms on 17th December at 7.30 pm and the **Crib Service is planned for 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve**. Do come along and bring the children and sing carols – it's the perfect start to Christmas proper.

And since I'm not sure whether the next issue of the News will be out before Christmas, I take this chance to wish you all a wonderful and blessed Christmas, and that the love of the Christ-Child, Emmanuel, God-With-Us, will sing in all our hearts this Christmastide.

With prayers and blessings

Rev Rose

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