



Pat Retires as Parish Clerk

Pat McDonald announced at the last Parish Meeting that she was retiring. I am sure you will all join the Parish Council in wishing Pat all the best for her retirement and thank her for her service to our community. Photo below: (Rear Andy, Steve, Martyn, Malcolm, front Lynn and Pat)



Community Photos

Photos to the right and below left:

Residents bring home grown produce to the Jubilee Orchard fruit swap



Cream Teas at the Village Hall to raise funds for Js photo right



Chignal Wine Discovery Group

After the August break the group were keen to meet up with fellow members again and soon the hall was buzzing with chatter. We settled down to begin the evenings tasting only to discover we were in-fact going to be sitting a 'GCSE' style blind tasting test! We were given 3 whites, 3 reds and had to identify country, grape and price for each one. We were helped slightly (but not much as was evident by the final grades achieved!) with it being multiple choice so the correct answers were in front of us and if all else failed we could always have a guess. Final grades varied from a U to a C – clearly the group could do with more revision on the subject! Well done to Mike for finishing top of the class and a big thank you to group member Andy Henderson for devising the evening's entertainment – an interesting and very enjoyable twist to a blind tasting. Thanks also to Kate and Steve for the delicious cheeseboard.

The wines tasted were:

- Anankena 'Tama' Vineyard Selection Viognier 2011 – Chile
- Zind Humbrecht Gewurztraminer 2011 – France
- Pouilly-Fuisse 2011, Domaine Cordier – France
- DMZ Syrah 2011, De Morgenzon, Stellenbosch - South Africa
- Beaune 1er Cru 'Les Cents Vignes' 2007, Albert Morot – France
- Benegas Malbec 2011, Libertad Vinyards, Medoza - Argentina

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



WHIST DRIVE

22nd November at 7.30 pm

in the Village Hall.

£2.50 entrance includes tea and cake

All welcome

Prizes for the raffle would be welcome

Village Pubs



£275 was raised at a Macmillan coffee morning held at The Three Elms in Chignal St James recently.

Licensees Pete and Gill included a raffle and bric a brac stall at the event, and the beautiful weather allowed supporters to enjoy their coffee and cakes outside in the sunshine.

The photo shows some of the regulars, neighbours and visitors at the pub after the event, including Helen (left) and Dave (third from left), who oversaw the raffle, and staff member Alice (fourth from left).

Pig and Whistle - Tuesday Night Quiz

The weekly quiz at the Pig & Whistle has been revived - it now starts at 8 pm, so it does not finish as late as in previous times. The quiz raises funds for charity, the charity chosen to receive the funds is the Talking Newspaper for the blind. There is about £200 in the pot already so please support the quiz.

Bowl's Club

We have now reached the end of the Competition for the Forgetnot Trophy, which was beautifully made for the Club by Bill Knight, and the Winners are John and Sharon. This will be presented at the Club Supper in October, another Social Event we all look forward to. A visit has been organised for the Club to try out Ten Pin Bowling. This will certainly be different, probably an entertaining evening!

More Afternoon Bowls Sessions are planned, the next one being on Wednesday Nov. 20th at 2.30. Normal playing fee will be £1.50. This is open to Club Members and anyone who would like to see if they would like to play bowls. A good way to start and we would be pleased to see you, experienced or not.

We have played matches against Black Notley and Pleshey. We had an enjoyable home match against Black Notley, we won the match, and both teams had a very good evening Our match against Pleshey was away, a very enjoyable evening, having not been to Pleshey for some while, and the result was a win to Chignal by one point!

Our next and last match of the year is away to Ford End at the end of October.

Sadly, we have just heard of the death of one of our long-serving members, Alan Smith, who will be much missed on our bowls evenings.

Ann Coates



The Chignals & Mashbury Jubilee Community Orchard

Bug Night at the Orchard

On 6th September 2013 the Orchard had its first Family Bug Night and it was great to see so many families and others who came to help. The weather smiled on us and after a miserable wet day, the sun came out in the evening. Unfortunately, bright and sunny are not the best conditions for running a moth light, so after looking at some examples of interesting moths caught the night before in Mashbury, the children who had come showed their skill and speed by catching (carefully, in cupped hands) moths flying early in the long grass.

As dusk fell, moths started arriving at our light and by the time we packed up at about 10.15 we had seen 18 different species - not a bad total for our very first moth survey.

The children were catching mainly Square-spot Rustics and early arrivals at the light were a Chinese Character, which looks exactly like a bird-dropping, and Setaceous Hebrew Characters with their distinctive black V-markings on their wings. Later, after families had gone home for well-earned hot drinks, we saw a Willow Beauty, a Brown-spot Pinion and a Tawny-speckled Pug.

Most interesting for me as I have not seen it before, and caught by one of the children, was a little pale yellow Tortrix moth - the same family as the dreaded Codling Moth and Plum Fruit Moth whose grubs we all hope not to find in our apples and plums. *Cochylimorpha straminea* is altogether a nicer moth whose caterpillar lives in the stems of Black Knapweed. Those who visit the orchard know that the beautiful mauve flowers of the Knapweed have been covering the long grass in the last couple of months so this little moth is one of our specialities.

The full list of moths, including day-flying moths and butterflies seen on other occasions, will be sent to the County Recorder - valuable records as, so far, no Lepidoptera have been recorded for this one Kilometre square. We plan to hold similar evenings at different times of the summer in future years to expand our knowledge of wildlife in the orchard.

Thank you to everyone who turned up, especially our speedy and skilful moth catchers.

Moirra Tarrant

Chinese



Setaceous Hebrew



Cochylimorpha straminea



“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.

Please call us if you need help with transport to the ‘Coffee Morning’ at The Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall. Next date 6th November.

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

Village Hall

CHRISTMAS COFFEE & MINCE PIES MORNING

Saturday 7th December, 10 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Raffle =Bring & Buy

All welcome – come along and meet your friends for coffee in a lovely festive atmosphere and help to raise funds for the village hall.



Women's Institute

In August the coffee morning in Janet's garden was a great success with about 40 people attending. The weather didn't look too good that day but the rain held off to the very end. At the September meeting Mr. Chris Winters told us how to grow old disgracefully which was most amusing. Chris had collected anecdotes and stories about amusing incidents that happen as one matures! He was a very good speaker with a quick wit and obvious respect for the WI. The knitters have been very busy and have produced an amazing amount of blankets, jumpers and hats etc. which will be sent to the Chernobyl district in the Ukraine via the Smile Charity. It is not only WI members who have been knitting but friends and family are getting very involved. Donations of other items such as washing powder together with the knitted items will be on the way to the Ukraine soon. Also our President, Janet, is going to the Ukraine to see the work of the Smile Charity at the orphanages and hospitals where children still suffering from the effects of the Chernobyl disaster are treated. In October we have Mrs. Enid Roberts from Writtle demonstrating her remarkable skill with sugar craft and in November we have an afternoon of making little angels and crackers too. Why not join us for our Christmas social on December 5th when Rosemary 'The Oompah Lady' will be treating us to some jolly seasonal entertainment. For details of all events please contact Myra on 440659 or Janet on 440 223.

November 7th An afternoon of Christmas crafts.

December 5th Christmas Social

Visitors always welcome

Fruit Swap

The Jubilee Community Orchard's recent 'fruit swap' turned out to be a great success with many of you turning out laden with fruit for others to share. Thanks to all those who took the time to bag, display and offer your produce. It all looked fabulous.

Nothing went to waste as left over fruit was taken to both the local pubs to either use or share with their customers.

Those of us who had no offerings were more than happy to have local produce and in the process the donations made around £50 which will go towards the orchard funds.

There were some new faces amongst us, including the Caravan Club who were staying at the village playing fields that weekend.

It is just over a year now when the initial meeting about the Orchard was held. I think you will agree that a lot has been achieved in that time - here we are now with what was an unused field being enjoyed by us all. Please email chignal.mashburyjubileeorchard@hotmail.co.uk with any comments you may have on what we can achieve in our next year.

Sandra Bailey and the Orchard committee

Photo right: members of the orchard committee with friends of the orchard, more photos of the event are on the front cover.



Talks Programme: November 2013 – April 2014

Wednesday 20th November 2013

"The Secret Life of Garden Birds", Mike Logan-Wood, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Wednesday 15th January 2014 tbc

"Tree fruits: selection, planting, pruning, pollination, pest and disease control", Michael Abel, Agrilan

Wednesday 19th February 2014

"New Zealand : plants of the southern hemisphere", Robin Carsberg

Wednesday 19th March 2014

"Wildflowers of the Phyllis Currie Nature Reserve, Great Leighs", Sylvia Jiggins, Reserve Warden.

<http://www.essexwt.org.uk/reserves/phyllis-currie>

Wednesday 16th April 2014

Annual General Meeting, Quiz and Plant Swap

We meet at the Village Hall in Chignal St James at 7.30 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to November and January to April for fascinating talks on a wide variety of topics. We also organise three garden visits during the summer months and the plant stall at the Village Fête.

We welcome new members and we're a very friendly club where you don't need to be an expert to enjoy the varied talks, demonstrations and visits. For more information, please contact Graham Andrews (Chairman) on 01245 442625 or Lynn Ballard (Secretary) on 01245 440880

Alex Bass who has formerly spoken at the Gardening Club is offering the opportunity to view A MURMURATION OF 20 THOUSAND STARLINGS OVER THE BLYTH ESTUARY, BLYTHBURGH, details below;

The time of year has arrived when thousands of Starlings come into roost over the Blyth Estuary at Hen Reedbed SWT. I am running a tour on to see the Starling roost and a wide number of wading birds seen on the estuary - including Little Egret, Brent Goose, Teal, Wigeon, Shoveler, Pintail, Avocet, Redshank, Greenshank, Curlew

Tour Dates - Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th November 2013 Time - 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm

Cost - £10 per person

Meeting point - The White Hart Inn, Blythburgh (on the A12 heading towards Lowestoft)

If you are interested please contact me on the number below:

Alex Bass,
Local Birding Tours
0797-4400-892

Looking forward to our Wassailing

We are taking every care that we can of the trees in our orchard using 21st Century techniques with skilful pruning and managing pests and diseases. Our ancestors covered all possibilities to ensure a good fruit harvest and so we are planning to emulate them by also having a Wassail.

Apple growers all over the country have held Wassails in their orchards for centuries - Wassail is derived from the Anglo-Saxon 'Waes haeil' - be healthy. Traditionally held after dark in the New Year, often around Twelfth Night, ours will be on 4th January at 5.00 pm. There are two elements to wassailing - encouraging the trees and driving out any bad spirits.

To encourage the trees, we are going to sing to them (lots of loud chorus singing is needed for this and words will be provided) and pour apple juice on them. We will make sure that when we shout the traditional toast, we will make it loud enough for every tree to hear:

"Hat-fulls, cap-fulls, little bushel bag-fulls,
Little heaps under the stairs
Hip Hip Hooray"

Frightening off any bad spirits is done with noise and lights, so for our grand procession right round the orchard we will need everyone to have lanterns and torches plus pots and pans to bang and whistles to blow.

Helping us with all this will be dancers and musicians from Good Easter Molly Gang. This Group which has now danced the Molly for 30 years revived a tradition once common in East Anglia but which disappeared last century along with ploughing with horses. If the weather was too bad for ploughing to start in January (Plough Monday was traditionally the second Monday of the month) the teams of ploughboys were forced into begging, which they did by dragging a plough themselves to big houses in the area and dancing for them. As this was an early form of 'trick or treating' (if a few pence weren't given, they ploughed up the front lawn!) the men disguised themselves very effectively by blacking their faces. Our ancestors used coal and wood soot but the modern dancers use face paint which is easy to remove if, by chance, you get a "lucky" dab of black on your cheek.

The Molly Gang will dance for us (with a chance to join in) so you will see the traditional 'Lord and Lady' with them, and will help with the singing to the trees and the procession that we will finish with.

So book 4th January at 5.00 in your diary and start looking out torches, pots & pans, hand warmers, scarves, gloves and thermal underwear so that we can ensure the health of our orchard in the very best way.

Moira Tarrant

Chignal Parish Council

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9th SEPTEMBER 2013.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Complaints were made regarding delivery lorries to the nursery which are causing damage in Chignal Hall Lane and in the lane by the Green. It was suggested that a meeting be arranged with the nursery owner to try to resolve the problems by investigating alternative onsite turning and parking arrangements.

A parishioner complained about the lack of passing spaces near the Church and it was explained that the Highways Department is considering improving the areas causing concern.

A complaint was made on the tree and hedge felling between the Grange and Dyers Hall and the landowner is happy for parishioners to contact him direct so he can explain why the work is being undertaken.

A parishioner has written to Councillors concerning various traffic issues in Chignal Smealey and a site meeting will be arranged with the Highways Department and the City Council to explore ways to improve safety for motorists at the Brede Road junction and other areas of concern in the Village.

COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Neither Councillor was able to attend the meeting but Cllr. Chambers sent a report highlighting various schemes where money is available from the City Council, giving details of how to apply for grants.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

PLAYING FIELDS – football practice has begun again on the field for Broomfield Under 8's.

GRAVEL LIAISON- the liaison meeting has been re-arranged for 31st October with a site visit for parishioners being arranged for later in the year. Current problems with the rainwater run-off from the workings into the pasture land alongside the bridleway to Pengy Mill and the management run-off once the workings have been capped will be included on the agenda and

any issues for discussion at the meeting should be forwarded to the Parish Representative.

VILLAGE WATCH – it was reported that attempts have been made to remove lead from the Church roof.

HIGHWAYS – problems with potholes are ongoing and repairs to the signposts are still outstanding. .

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS –further walks will be organised to coincide with the coffee mornings held on 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month.

TREE WARDEN – a poster describing the symptoms of ash disease has been placed on the notice board.

VILLAGE ORCHARD – a 'Bugs Night' was held on 6th September which was very successful. It was confirmed that regular 'risk assessments' will be carried out and the text for the orchard notice board was approved.

PLANNING

Land at Chignal Grange to erect a retirement bungalow – the application will be discussed at the City Council Planning meeting on 17th September.

Woodfall extensions – the application was approved.

Bridleway Cottage – proposed cart lodge – a decision is awaited.

SPEEDING IN CHIGNAL ST. JAMES – it was agreed to contact the Highways Department asking for investigations to be made on speeds in the Village.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 11th November 2013.

From the County Council

Members of the Essex County Council International Trade Team recently visited Jiangsu Province in China on a trade mission to promote increased investment from China in the counties of Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Jiangning High-Tech Industrial Park to strengthen cooperation in the Life Science sector between the Industrial Park and the East of England. In addition, the re-signing of the Essex's long standing joint trading agreement, with the Vice-Governor of the Jiangsu Province, will enable the three county councils to develop joint projects to help businesses increase their exports to China; increase cultural exchanges and help our schools stimulate children to learn Chinese and learn more about Chinese culture. Our universities and vocational colleges will also have the opportunity to form profitable links with their counterparts in China as well as attract more Chinese tourists to the three counties.

Real Time Passenger Information System Upgrade Live This July

The County Council, and its partner authorities, Southend Borough Council and Thurrock Council, have finished a full upgrade of the 'Real Time Passenger Information System' at bus stops; this became active at the end of July and will ultimately give better information on the real-time movements of the bus services to residents of Greater Essex. Initially the new system will only show timetable information but once operators equip their buses with GPS technology live information will appear on the displays over the coming months which will enable passengers to plan their travel with greater reliability and convenience. Audio announcements are also planned and will provide an extra benefit. These new upgrades provide for a more cost effective system that will help to save around £300k per annum.

Highway Maintenance Priorities

You may have read in the local press that the County Council is proposing to make some key changes to its highway maintenance priorities. Roads will be classified as either 'County Routes' ('Priority 1 or Priority 2') or 'Local Roads'. The Priority 1 & 2 roads are the primary roads which provide the main arteries through Essex, and carry the highest traffic volumes. The 'Local Roads' network will comprise all other roads. The changes to the response times for repairs to carriageway surfaces and structural defects mean that emergency repairs (i.e. those representing an immediate safety risk) will continue to be given the highest priority on both County Routes and Local Roads - where necessary permanent repairs to emergency defects will be completed within five working days. For defects which are not deemed to be urgent, response times will continue to be quicker on County Routes, in order to allow the Council to focus its maintenance activity on the busiest roads. All other roads requiring an immediate repair will be considered as part of the County Council's planned maintenance programme. To report a highway defect go to www.essex.gov.uk/highways or call 0845 603 7631

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 – September / October 2013

News from St Nicholas Continued

Autumn nights are drawing in as we come to the season of remembering, remembering those loved ones who are no longer with us (also known as All Souls). Come and join us at Great Waltham Church on Saturday 2 November at 10 am followed by refreshments. The names of our loved ones will be read out and we will be able to light a candle. On 10 November we will be remembering those who have given their lives in war, both at St Nicholas at 11 am and at Great Waltham the parade will leave Duffries Close near Hatchfields at 10.15 am and we will arrive at the war memorial at 10.45 am, followed by a service in church.

Remembering is so important, remembering the past and the people who have gone before us. Remembering – literally re - membering - reconnects us to who we are and to how we connect and are dependent on other people. And this sense of connection is so important, connection with the land and connection with the people, connection with the past and with the future. Connection is one of those things that gives us hope and creates community. And I would add connection with God. Recently I went on retreat for 8 days to Wales where we were in silence and I had a real sense of reconnecting with God, and God's love for me, not just in my head but also in my heart. Knowing that God was waiting for me whenever I came and sat in silence, knowing that I am loved.

And of course after Autumn comes winter and Christmas, when we celebrate and rejoice at the birth of a child. Many of us will know what it is like to rejoice at the birth of a much loved maybe long awaited child. Having no children myself, my memory is of going on holiday with my sister and her two young sons and sitting up with the younger one when everyone else had gone to bed, holding him in my arms as he fell asleep after a feed, sitting by the fire and looking down at him and being amazed at how perfect he was and feeling so blessed. And of course at Christmas we celebrate the birth of a baby, Jesus, who was both ordinary and special, loved by his parents but whose birth also had wider significance.

Come and join us for the crib service on Christmas Eve at St Nicholas at 2.30 pm and the magic of a midnight service at Great Waltham church, which begins at 11.30 pm. There will also be a Christmas Day communion at 9 am at St Nicholas.

Finally, I just wanted to say what a joy it is beginning to get to know people and getting a sense of this community.

Revd. Caroline Brown

Carol Service



You are all invited to attend

The Christmas Carol Service on

Sunday 22nd December at 3 pm

at the United Reform Chapel, Chignal Smealey

St. Nicholas' Church

From Harvest Sheaf to Christmas Crib

This is my first year of taking part in harvest festivals while living in a rural community and having a real sense of the harvest first hand. After such a cold start to the summer it is good to see the fields bringing forth food and being harvested and as the year turns round seeing the ground being ploughed and the new crop being drilled. It makes it all so much more real and tangible.

So it was a particular delight to celebrate harvest and give thanks for the gift of the land, knowing that it made a real difference to people there. And harvest is not only about the fruits from the land but also the fruits from all our labours, our joys and achievements, our hopes and disappointments, our plans and our dreams. So we brought all of these and gave thanks to God and it was good to do so on such a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon. The church looked a real picture decked in flowers and fruit from rows of simple orange daisy like flowers in pots on the window sills to a stunning large piece by the altar, and of course a sheaf of wheat. It was good to catch up with old friends and new over a delicious homemade tea.

It was lovely to have three girls baptised in the summer: Maisy and Emily Bailey on 18 August, the grand-daughters of Sandra and Lee whose son Paul was married to Laura at the church in 2012, and Poppy Noble on 22 September whose sister Scarlet had been baptised a few years ago.

On a sadder note Derek Money's funeral was on 28 August. Derek and Margaret had moved into their current home in 1978 and have raised both of their boys Chris and Martin there. Derek worked at Selex ES and was a respected and valued colleague. One of the tributes said he was '*the can do, the will do and the already done man*'. Apart from his family and friends his passion was his motor bike and he loved the freedom of the open road and the countryside. Unfortunately Derek's later years were not without its challenges. He fought his illness bravely, with determination and courage. Derek was a caring, loving and devoted husband, father, brother and grandfather who will be sadly missed.

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