

Olympic Celebrations



Kyla and Steve Middleditch rang a three-minute peal of the St Nicholas church bell out across the villages at 8.12 a.m. as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad to signal the start of the first day of the London 2012 Games. Villagers turned out with cow bells and hand bells and the Finchams even brought their front door bell to ring in the Olympics.

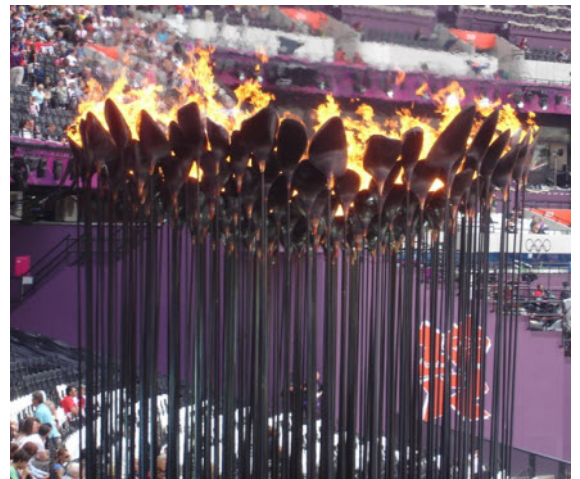
Turner Prize winner and musician Martin Creed masterminded the nationwide mass bell ringing, which started at 8.12 a.m. The aim was for as many bells in Britain to be rung as quickly and as loudly as possible for three minutes. The nationwide performance, entitled Work No 1197, is part of the London 2012 Festival to welcome to Britain the 205 nations who will compete at the Games and reflects Britain's bell-ringing musical heritage.

Pictured above are left to right: David and Sue Fincham, Lynn Ballard, Carolyn Anstey, Helen Towns, and Steve, Kyla and Kate Middleditch' Pictured below are Steve and Kyla Middleditch ringing in the Olympics on the St Nicholas Church Bell.:



Editorial by Linda Nelson

I hope you have all enjoyed this wonderful summer of sport. As previously mentioned 5 villagers have been volunteering for the Olympics and Paralympics or both. We were intending to produce some photos for this edition but Games duties and holidays have prevented us from getting together. I hope to publish some memories in the next edition but if any of you want to write about your experiences please send them to me with any photos you might have. I hope you enjoy some of the pictures taken at the Games



Women's Institute

In May to continue the 60th anniversary of our WI I presented them with a cake which had been made for me by one of our members, Angela Flynn. Well done Angela, it was delicious. In June Mrs. Virginia Freeston, President of Orchard Springs WI, our delegate to the National AGM at The Albert Hall gave a good detailed account of the meeting. This was followed by a quite remarkable talk by Mrs. Lyn Croot. Lyn's talk was called 'I had a dream, Lyn's dream was to scuba dive and she achieved her dream. Lyn hadn't taken up scuba diving until she was 'mature' but age didn't seem to stop her. Valiantly one of our members, Anita Howard, agreed to struggle into a wet suit and put on all the gear. This was a most interesting afternoon. Lyn does most of her diving off the coast of Tobago and we hope she will return in 2013 to tell us more about this island. In July we had our garden meeting at Pengy Mill by kind invitation of Mary-Jane and John. We were lucky to have a lovely sunny afternoon after so many wet days. The garden was really beautiful, full of interesting tree shapes and colour contrasts. The Committee provided a wonderful tea and we felt most welcome in such a lovely place. We had a very enjoyable afternoon, thank you Mary-Jane and John. We are looking forward to 'The Art of Magic' by Mr. Paul Clancy in August and I'm continuing our reminiscence year in September by depicting '60 Glorious Years' in flowers. Come and join us at any of our meetings.

September 6th '60 Glorious Years' (flower arranging)
October 4th 'The Canadian Rockies' Mr Dudley Chignall
November 1st 'The Life of Charles Dickens' Mr. Ron Cook



Art and Flowers!

Huge thanks to everyone who helped me set up and run the Jubilee Art Exhibition and art at the Fete. There are so many people who work so hard 'behind the scenes' and get very little thanks. I greatly appreciated all your help. It was a happy and successful exhibition.

I would also like to thank all the flower arranging ladies who put on such a splendid 'Celebration in Flowers' at the church. The arrangers who helped me were Barbara Diggins, Joan Smith, Sandra Bailey, June Martin, Helen Towns and Mary-Jane Paufley. Many thanks also to all the sponsors who celebrated the past lives of loved ones or celebrated special anniversaries, the money and flowers

Bowls Club

Chignall has had two successes recently, firstly, hosting the Bowls competitions as part of the Inter Village Games, and our team winning the competition, our team comprising of Martyn, Yvonne, Sheila and Kevin, proudly received their gold medals. Well done Chignall!

Secondly, our team competed in the Great Easton Charity Fours, which took place at Foakes Hall in Dunmow. They did splendidly, and made it through to the Final, losing to Hellions Bumpstead. Well done team, of Kathleen, Gordon, Yvonne and Martyn.

We have been busy with social activities as well, holding our Strawberry Supper and Quiz in July. Gordon organised an excellent Quiz for club members and guests which was very successful. Following the Quiz we had a Ploughman's Supper with strawberries and cream after. A raffle was held during the evening, from which we raised about £60 for our Charity of the Year, namely Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

An outing was organised for a visit to New Hall Vineyard in Purleigh. We were given a tour of the winemaking processes, very interesting, although rather memorable for being marooned in one of the barns during a horrendous thunderstorm! The only way out being a group crocodile under a large tarpaulin - a photo would have been good, but we were rather intent on keeping as dry as possible! We eventually made it into another barn, with a cheese Ploughman's waiting for us, and also very welcome, a few samples of their wine, A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

We have had an away match against Leaden Roding, which we just lost, and have two home matches coming up, one against Ford End, and the other a return match against Leaden Roding.

Ann Coates

It took eighteen months to plan and organise. In the end, it involved eight villages in fifteen events and five schools competing in six. It incorporated Torch processions through five villages in less than favourable conditions. Whilst it is impossible to have an accurate assessment of the number of people involved, we estimate that between 1,000 and 2,000 participated as competitors, spectators or organisers.

Out of the 15 different Games events, the Chignals and Mashbury were only able to muster people to enter 7 but we were still placed 5th out of the 8 villages that took part, scoring 115.5 points. Roxwell entered all of the events and won with an impressive 268 points.

Out of the 7 events where we fielded a team, the carpet bowls team of Kevin, Martyn, Sheila and Yvonne did us proud by winning Gold medals; we came second in 3 events, the Quiz (Andy, Ann, Linda, Peter and friends); Table Tennis (Dave, Norman and Simon) and the 10 K Trail Run, (Andy, Gill, Martin and Owen). The Golfers, (Ann, John and Peter) gained us 10 points by coming 4th and Sandra and Lee were joint 4th in the Croquet. The Tennis team captained by Mary-Jane did exceptionally well to make it to the semi-finals, adding another 12.5 points to the village score.

We have several positive stories from the Chignals and Mashbury to tell as a direct result of the Games: a new village croquet club is being formed; new members from other villages are joining our gardening club; several residents who had never taken part in village activities before either held the torch or lined the route in support; and, village runners have now found each other and ran together to train for the 10K event.

The original concept for the Games was: "In view of the national excitement that will surround the 2012 London Olympics, it is proposed that local villages might hold an 'Inter-Village Games', thereby strengthening our sense of community and having a lot of fun together."

The Nation has been gripped by the London 2012 Olympic Games and the Paralympics, so it is rewarding to look back on our own event and see very clearly that we did, indeed, fulfil the original objectives. We did bring many people together in a friendly, competitive challenge and an environment that encouraged the growth of wellbeing amongst us. A more lasting tribute would be to carry with us a legacy of continued opportunities to unite our communities.

In this spirit, we have been invited to take part in two quizzes that are being organised in Willingale. The first, in aid of Church funds will be **6th October** and the second, in aid of the Village Hall, on **1st December**. They both start at 19.30 with food included and the bar will be open. Tickets are £10 each and teams should comprise of, preferably, eight. The quizzes will include pictorial items, recorded sound and video clips with the aim to entertain rather than put the little grey cells under too much pressure.

If you would like to be in a Chignals and Mashbury team for one or both of these quizzes, please let me know: Lynn Ballard, lynn_ballard@btinternet.com or 01245 440880.



Trail Runners Owen, Jill and Andy (right)

Carpet Bowls
Gold Medallists



Letters to the Editor

Lee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parishioners (they know who they are!) who were so involved in making our Son Paul's wedding to Laura on 30th June such a perfect day! Even the weather did not disappoint!

We have such a wonderful village and community, as well as an abundance of talent, and it was all put to good use in preparation for the day. It was not just the day itself, but the working party at the St. Nicholas Church beforehand, followed by a great display of floristry for the Big Day. I do hope that you managed to get along to the church to see the wonderful flowers.

It cannot go without mentioning Tony and Helen Towns who gave us free reign of the church, and were so supportive and involved in the lead up to the wedding. Tony even rang the bell after the ceremony! I cannot recommend our wonderful church enough for a great family wedding. Put the word around, and let's get our church used by more happy couples.



Chignals Inter Village Games Tennis

We were so lucky that amidst the terrible weather recently we enjoyed a lovely sunny and still evening on Wednesday 4th July.

The Chignals Tennis Team comprised Mary Jane Pauffley, Sue Lomas, James Marriage and Martin Matthews. We competed against teams from Highwood and The Rodings on private courts in Newney Green in Mens Doubles, Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

Despite not having played together previously we managed to win the first round against Highwood but unfortunately lost the semi final to a very good team from The Rodings.

Well done to The Chignal Team who thoroughly enjoyed the event and many thanks to all those involved in the organisation.

Sue Lomas

Dates for your Diary

The W.I are holding a Village Quiz Night on Saturday, September 29th starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Anita and Michael Howard from Chelmsford will be the Quiz masters.

Teams to be no larger than 8 people.

There will be a light supper so bring knives and forks and your own drinks.

Calls for Immediate Action to Free Up Dartford River Crossing

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) comprising Essex, East Sussex, Kent, Medway, Southend, and Thurrock involves leaders from business, local government, and further and higher education working towards creating the most enterprising economy in England. It has recently warned that the delay in bringing in free flowing tolling at the Dartford River Crossing is damaging to the growth of the economy and must be introduced sooner than the Government's proposed date of 2014. The Partnership also called for barrier lifting at peak times of congestion to ease delays and for assurances that some of the revenues raised from the recent increases in the tolls would be used towards easing congestion on both sides of the crossing. The SELEP was responding to the announcement last month of increased toll charges. Look at <http://www.southeastlep.com/> for more information on the Dartford Crossing and the SELEP

Blue Badge Amnesty

Blue Badges for disabled parking are issued automatically to some residents who receive, for example, the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, or are registered blind, or in receipt of a War Pensioners Mobility Supplement. All others are awarded on a discretionary basis upon application to the County Council. From 1st April this year Blue Badges for disabled residents are issued through a new national system introduced by Central Government. This means that the County Council are now required to organise independent mobility assessments for anyone applying for a Blue Badge, under the discretionary criteria, which will make the process less open to abuse which costs the Country an estimated £46 million in lost parking fees every year. Because these changes take a little longer to process and require proof of identity it has meant that some Blue Badge holders have found that their Badges have expired before they can be renewed. To help meet this problem the County Council, has worked with the North and South Essex Parking Partnerships, and has granted a temporary amnesty for people with a Blue Badge which expired on or after the 1st April 2012 - but only until the end of July. This has enabled people to use their expired Blue Badge within Essex County Council's boundaries (note that this does not include Southend, Thurrock and some London Boroughs that border Essex) without facing parking fines, for a limited period. Blue Badge holders who qualified under the amnesty will also have any parking fines issued after 1st April and before the end of July to be rescinded on appeal. If you have a Blue Badge that is due to be renewed shortly, it is worth noting that the County Council is happy to receive applications up to three months in advance of renewal which will ensure that the Blue Badge is issued in good time. But be sure to apply with at least six weeks notice to ensure you get the new Badge before expiry.

For further information look at

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Travel-Highways/Roads-Cars/Blue-Badges/Pages/Blue-Badges.aspx> or telephone **0845 603 7630**

Essex Highways

The County Council has allocated an extra £11 million for road repairs. This will go a long way to redressing the state of some of the County's that have been damaged by the extreme weather conditions that we have experienced in the past couple of years. If you know of a serious road defect, please report it as soon as possible either online at

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Pages/Report-It.aspx> or telephone 0845 603 7631.

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

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex

The Government believes a directly appointed person will be more accountable to the public. On Thursday 15th November 2012 elections will be held to vote for a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for every police area. At the same time, Police Authorities will be abolished.

The PCC's role will involve working with the public, police and local partners to ensure effective policing as well as contributing to national requirements. The PCC will be responsible for overseeing policing on behalf of more than 1.7 million people in Essex.

The PCC will:

- set the Police Council Tax precept
- hold the chief constable and force to account
- employ and if necessary dismiss the chief constable
- ensure there is an effective and efficient force in everything from counter terrorism and serious and organised crime through a huge range of specialist operations to local neighbourhood policing
- have the power to make community safety grants

Although directly elected, the PCC will be held to account by a Police and Crime Panel comprised of councillors representing each of the districts, boroughs, unitary authorities and county council. There will also be a minimum of 2 independent members.

The Commissioner will be elected for a four year period and can only be elected for two consecutive terms, 8 years in total.

Essex Police Authority is working hard to ensure that there is a smooth transition from Police Authority to the office of Police and Crime Commissioner.

Further information can be found on the Essex Police Authority website at http://www.essex.police.uk/authority/involving_you/police_and_crime_commissioner.aspx

Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard

Over the last year there has been growing support from individual local residents and the Chignals & Mashbury Gardening Club to the idea of creating a community orchard in the village. Based on this expression of enthusiasm, the Parish Council agreed at its meeting on 14th May 2012 that an area of grassland currently cut for hay opposite the village playing fields at Howletts Corner, Chignal St James, owned by Chelmsford City Council, could be considered for a community orchard. This use was proposed as an option for the site in the Chignal Village Design Statement whereby local people would share in the harvest, taking responsibility for any work to be done and the community would profit from the sale of its produce.

Chelmsford City Council has given positive encouragement to establishing a community orchard on the Howletts Corner site and is in discussion with the Parish Council to agree a lease for 25 years. Funding may be forthcoming from the 'Edible Essex' scheme and from the Lafarge Landfill Communities Fund to allow planting to begin after Christmas. In addition, the Chairman of Chelmsford's Biodiversity Forum has provided initial advice on the types of fruit trees, hedging and wildflowers that we could plant and on how to protect them.

We held a meeting on 15 August in the village hall for all those who had expressed interest in the orchard to share ideas on how to develop and manage the site for fruit growing, beneficial wildlife and enjoyment by local people. It was decided early on that the orchard should involve residents in Mashbury as well as the Chignals, (as we do with the Gardening Club). To make the project happen, a management committee was set up to make proposals for a constitution and to manage the financing and development of the orchard, including work groups. This small group met a week later to start thinking about the number and types of traditional Essex fruit trees that we'd like to plant and other aspects such as grass and hedge cutting, fencing, access and providing amenities such as benches, picnic tables and an interpretation board and natural features to encourage birds and insects. These items now need to be costed and included in funding bids that will be submitted later in September.

A progress report will be made to the Parish Council meeting on **10th September** so please come along to the Village Hall at 7.30pm if you would like to hear what we have been doing to create the community orchard and to join the embryonic orchard group.

In the meantime, if you would like to know more about our orchard plans, please contact Lynn Ballard, lynn_ballard@btinternet.com or 01245 440880.



Goddards Green - a community orchard in Kent

Chignal Parish Council

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 9th JULY 2012 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Parishioners present thanked a Councillor for all her work in organising the Village Games and Councillors were also thanked for the paperweights donated to every child in the Parish to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

PLAYING FIELDS – A request has been received from Broomfield R.C. Under 9's to continue using the playing field for the coming season. It was agreed to allow the football club to continue to use the field.

VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – the Village Fete held recently was very successful.

GRAVEL LIAISON – a date for the next meeting has not been confirmed. It was explained that the road repairs to Pengymill have been carried out by Lafarge.

VILLAGE WATCH –the police reported that complaints have been received about road bikers racing around footpaths in Chignal St. James

HIGHWAYS – a map has been produced showing potholes throughout the Parish which will be forwarded to the relevant section of the Highways Department.

FOOTPATHS/BRIDLEWAYS – it was agreed to commence walking the footpaths again in the Autumn and parishioners were invited to join the walks when dates have been agreed.

TELEPHONE BOX, CHIGNAL ST. JAMES – it was suggested that the box be re-painted in September.

TREE WARDEN – it was reported that a diseased cherry tree on the Green has been cut down. The possibility of registering the Green will be discussed with Essex County Council and an item included on the agenda for the next meeting.

PLANNING – replacement of post and rail fence etc. – application approved.

INTER VILLAGE GAMES – a results table was distributed and thanks were expressed to everyone who participated and helped in the organisation of the events

PARISH ORCHARD – it is hoped to obtain some funding for the project from Lafarge and a bid is to be made by 21st September but some additional funding may also be necessary. A further meeting will take place in early August with parishioners interested in developing the orchard and further discussions will take place with Chelmsford City Council regarding the lease. The meeting in August will take place in the Village Hall and the Parish Council agreed to pay for the hire of the hall for the meeting.

A further meeting has taken place with a representative from Edible Essex to discuss proposals and it is hoped to plant trees in January or February following investigations to see if the access can be improved.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – the next meeting will be held on Monday 10th September 2012 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

New Councillor Required

Mrs Julia Smart has made the decision to resign as a parish councillor, so there is an opportunity for someone to become a councillor, If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor please contact the Parish Clerk or express an interest at the next parish council meeting

St. Nicholas' Church

Greetings and a very BIG thank you to all of you who have helped to make St Nicholas Church this summer a hive of activity.

Thanks to the 'Bailey' family, the church yard tidy up was a great success, but more importantly a joy to be at the ringing of the bell, organised by Steve Middleditch and the call to prayer on the eve of the Olympics was well supported.

Our sincere thanks to Julia and Steven Smart for arranging a wonderful Jubilee concert, to Myra Wilkins for heading up the celebration of flowers and for sharing with us her cleverly written poem. There are many other people who gave their time and worked behind the scenes. No matter how good a show, without an audience it is worthless, thank you to you all.

This summer St Nicholas was the venue for the wedding of Laura and Paul Bailey, we wish them much happiness. On a sadder note a service was held for the celebration of the life of Alan Shipcott ; former church warden, our thoughts are with Joy his wife and his family. Many people have entered the doors of our little church and have found comfort solace and peace, not forgetting laughter, in the midst of their life. We thank God, that we have managed to keep going, and pray that we will continue to run the race that is before us, under the guidance of Jesus Christ, The Light of the World .



Our next big event is harvest, to be held on SUNDAY 7th OCTOBER 11 am, PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME. The service will be followed by a glass of wine or juice. Gifts of dried lentils would be appreciated which will be distributed to Eastern Europe via Harvest for the Hungry. We look forward to seeing many of you at the harvest festival.

We would like to conclude by thanking all of you who have organised and supported the many events which have recently taken place, without your contribution none of these would of happened. Best wishes Tony Towns (telephone no 440241)

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR HARVEST SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER 10am





Everybody welcome.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SUNDAY 7th OCTOBER 11 am. Everybody welcome.

Sunday worship weekly at 11 am unless otherwise stated.

Friends of Essex Churches Trust Ride or Stride takes place Saturday 8th September 10 am - 6 pm. Good luck to all who take part.

Forms available at the back of the church or from Helen Towns (telephone no 440241)

		
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