MARGARETTING NEWS

February 2012

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**ST MARGARET’S CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY**

 5th February 10am - Parish Communion

12th February 4pm - Evening Prayer

19th February 10am - Parish Communion

26th February 11am - Matins

ST MARGARET’S CHURCH NEWS

It seems as if we have just finished the Christmas season and we are surrounded by Easter eggs in the shops. Lent begins this year on the 22nd February when the first service is Ash Wednesday. There will be a service in Margaretting church at 10.00 am when ‘ashing’ is part of the service to prepare ourselves for the journey we make during the Lenten period.

 The imposition of ashes is a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we keep the season of preparation for Easter. The ashes are from last year’s palm crosses and anyone attending the service is invited to receive the sign of the cross on their forehead, the symbol of our salvation. At the imposition, these words are said to each person ‘Remember that you are but dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ’. The service continues in the usual way and, as there are no hymns, is quiet and reflective, a good way to begin preparing ourselves for our ‘wilderness journey’.

 During each month of the year we also remember various saints, apostles and others who have had an influence on the church. George Herbert is remembered on the 27th February. He was a priest and a poet writing hymns that are still popular in the English speaking world. His treatise, ‘The Country Parson’, on the priestly life, and his poetry, especially ‘The Temple’ earned Herbert a leading place in English literature. He was born in 1593 and died on 1st March 1633.

 In the community the places and people being prayed for each week this month are:

5th February – the various groups using the village hall

12th February – the Horticultural Society

19th February – the Parish Council

26th February – those living in Church Lane

 Please remember to let me know if you have someone you would like to be prayed for each week during our services.  *Revd Jean 354359*

QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS - SATURDAY 2ND JUNE

Plans for the children’s afternoon activities are nearing completion. There is to be a royal fancy dress competition; games and races (London 2012 theme); a magician; bouncy castle and afternoon tea party. A children’s art competition is to be arranged and the entrant’s work will be on display in the village hall.

The evening event for adults and families will be a hog roast and a barn dance.

 Other ideas being worked on is a scarecrow competition - a challenge to everyone to make a scarecrow for their front garden. Perhaps a photographic display of all the scarecrows entered could complement the children’s art work?

 Fund raising activities to help towards the costs of our village celebration are currently being discussed. So, please do ‘watch this space’.

EASTERN ANGLES

PRIVATE RESISTANCE

**7.30pm - Tuesday, 21st February**

**Margaretting Village Hall**

Book your seats now - Tickets £8

 Telephone 01277 354821

Refreshments available during interval

Margaretting Art Group presents:
A Landscape Painting Demonstration
in Watercolours
by John Tookey
**Wednesday, 8th February, 2012
at Margaretting Church.**

**10am to midday**Tickets just £5.00
from Jenny: 01277 354821
or Susan: 01277 353973.

PARISH COUNCIL – JANUARY MEETING

**DEMOCRATIC TIME**

Three members of the public present.

Issues raised included:

1) New pedestrian refuge island.

Concerns were expressed that the community had not been consulted; the location of the island presents a safety hazard for cars entering and leaving the drives of nearby houses; accidents will happen; the crest of the hill is not the safest location to install a pedestrian refuge island; the children walking to school had previously crossed the road in the vicinity of Ponders, not where the new island had been installed; the tall beacon is unsightly; the central width of the crossing was thought to be too narrow for push chairs/buggies.

Members of the public were advised that the community had been consulted and their comments had been referred to Highways Road Safety Engineers. **See next page**.

It was reported and noted that parents and children walking to the local school were using the new pedestrian refuge island.

2) Village Gateways

Maintenance of the gateways when they are installed was questioned. We confirmed the gateways would be included in the parish council’s repair and maintenance schedule.

3) Road and traffic signs.

The following were reported: ‘Watch Your Speed’ sign in Main Road facing the wrong way; differing signage size being installed by Bishops Court; signs in need of cleaning and removing; relining of the white lines in Wantz Road. Particular concerns were expressed about the number of existing warning signs and possible new warning signs for the new refuge islands. *Since the meeting we have been informed that the new signs are temporary and will be removed after three months.*

4) Grass verges.

The grass needs trimming back on the pavements in Main Road.

We agreed to refer all the above concerns to Chelmsford Council and Highways for action.

**VILLAGE PROJECTS**

War Memorial: We discussed advice received on how best to protect and preserve the monument.

Parish Council Office: Ingletons have been instructed to prepare detailed drawings for building regulations and building estimates.

Whites Bridge - Walk Boards: Still waiting for a third quotation to replace the posts and boards.

Whites Bridge: Still waiting for details and proposals for width protection for the bridge. Highways Engineers to be reminded.

**PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY**

Details to be placed on the notice boards. **See next page.**

**MARGARETTING TRUST**

Nominees are being sought to fill a vacancy on the board of trustees.

**PARISH WEBSITE**

The website has been updated.

**See next page.**

**VILLAGE SITES**

Maldon Road Green: We agreed the removal of the diseased and dying oak would be our preferred option and to seek advice from the borough’s Tree Officer. Plans to install bollards to prevent cars parking on this green have been submitted to Highways for approval.

Pond: A tidy up of the pond will take place after the lime treatment to curb the invasive weed.

Bridleway 22: Awaiting a response from the land owner to our request for mounting steps. Advice has been sought from Chelmsford Council about the boards going over the river; they are old and slippery.

Margaretting Tye: The damage caused by the recycling lorries to the verge in Swan Lane has been reported to Chelmsford Council. We agreed bollards for this particular location may be the only solution to protect the verge from further erosion. Quotations to be obtained.

Maldon Road-Nuns Crossing: We agreed liability for repairing the damaged grass verges at this location belongs to Network Rail’s contractors. Contact details to be obtained from the owner leasing out the field to the contractors.

Black Bull Bus Stop: A litter bin has been purchased. Now waiting for quotes to install it.

Parsonage Lane: Awaiting advice from Chelmsford Council as to the location for the dog waste bin.

**MALDON RD PLAYING FIELD**

Allotments: Nothing to report.

Play Area: Awaiting a third quotation for the purchase and installation of two skate board ramps. Chelmsford Council has confirmed it has no objections to the installation of the ramps and no planning permission is required for the size of ramps we would like to install.

**ACCOUNTS**

Agreed the following expenditure:

£55 C. Kochan (salary)

£113 BT (broadband)

£481 Village Hall (insurance)

Noted the following income:

£800—Maztec (V Festival grant)

**PLANNING**

The following applications were received for comment:

*11/01995/CLOPUD* - Van Dykes, Margaretting Tye: (Certificate of Lawful Proposed Use of Development) Garage and Pool House

*11/01996/CLOPUD* - Van Dykes, Margaretting Tye: (Certificate of Lawful Proposed Use of Development) Single storey side and front extensions and two storey rear extension.

*11/01855/FUL* - Eweland Hall Cottage, Main Road: Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement three bedroom dwelling.

The following decisions were noted:

*11/01713/*FUL - Spread Eagle, Main Road: Demolition of fire damaged public house and erection of three four bed roomed houses.

Granted Planning Permission

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Peacocks: We discussed a letter received about the village peacocks being a health and safety concern. **See next page**

Play in the Park: We discussed booking an event for the summer holidays. Details to follow later.

PEDESTRIAN REFUGE ISLANDS

The complaints about the new pedestrian refuge island have been referred to Essex County Council Highways whose engineers maintain: the location of the island is the most visible point for pedestrians crossing the road; overtaking manoeuvres of motorists had been taken into consideration; the high mast beacon is vital and essential; the speed of traffic had been monitored and traffic engineers were aware that drivers exceeded the speed limit. The engineers were aware also of the poor state of the footpaths and confirmed the vegetation is to be cut back.

In response to complaints that the community had not been consulted the following is a reminder of the sequence of events leading to the installation of the two pedestrian islands in Main Road.

2005-2007 Parish council receives ongoing complaints from the school and local residents about the problems of trying to cross Main Road. Meetings take place with Highways engineers. Nothing is resolved.

2008-2009 Requests continue for something to be done about the difficulties in crossing Main Road and the volume and speed of traffic travelling through the village. Further meetings/discussions take place with Highways. The concept of a shared space scheme for the crossroads is put forward by the parish council and rejected by Highways. The parish council is told such a scheme would not pass a safety audit because the volume of traffic is too heavy - over 8,000 cars a day use Main Road.

May 2009 Parish council traffic scheme committee is formed. More meetings take place with Highways engineers. Engineers advise committee that the best scheme to slow traffic and help folk cross Main Road is to install pedestrian refuge islands.

June/October/November 2009

Parish council seeks views from the community via this newsletter on ideas for traffic schemes and on a proposal to seek funding for two pedestrian refuge islands. The majority of people responding support this proposal.

March 2010 Parish council told funding is available for one island only (opposite P&P Motors) and its request for a second island will remain on Highways list.

March 2011 First island installed.

January 2012 Second island installed.

*Penny Savill, Chairman,*

 *Margaretting Parish Council*

INGATESTONE RECYCLING CENTRE

Winter opening times are 9am to 4pm. From 1st March the opening times will be 9am to 5pm. The site is closed on Tuesdays.

PARISH WEBSITE

The parish council would welcome your views and ideas. Please visit: www.essexinfo.net/margaretting/

MARGARETTING

SCHOOL

At the end of January Class 1 enjoyed a lovely day full of activities to help celebrate the Chinese New Year. This year is the Year of the Dragon and the children had fun tasting different foods with chopsticks and making Chinese Lanterns amongst other activities.

At the beginning of February we will be welcoming a German student to the school via The Anglo as part of their work experience. The students we have had in the past have always been lovely and great with the children. Towards the end of February after Half Term, on the 27th, Class 2 will be spending the day at Colchester Castle Museum. This trip is to study the Romans as part of their topic this term. They will go deep under the castle to have a talk about its history and see how the castle was built. Then later look at the artefacts around the museum.

OVER 60S CLUB

Club members, together with friends and family celebrated the New Year with an excellent meal from the ‘Black Bull’ and after dinner entertainment provided by the Chelmsford U3A Music Hall Group.

This month dog owners and lovers will be very welcome to join us for a presentation on ’canine friends’, on the 8th February and on the 22nd for a regular club afternoon of chat and a cuppa, Bingo and games with friends and neighbours. Do join us if you can - transport can be arranged - just call Roy on 356182.

VILLAGE PEACOCKS

The following agencies advised the parish council as follows: Environmental Health - we do not deal with wildlife; Essex Wildlife - we do not deal with birds; RSPB - we do not deal with non native birds but can give you a telephone number of a local peacock expert.

The peacock expert told the parish council peacocks never go away and a home would have to be found for them before he could cage and remove them. He warned their removal may cause a rift between residents in the village who want the peacocks to stay and those in the village who want them removed!

PARISH COUNCIL

 VACANCY

Subject to no one calling an election during the period of the vacancy notice, the parish council will be free to advertise to co-opt to fill the vacancy. If you are interested in being co-opted onto the parish council please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council on 01277 353181 email: parishcouncil.margaretting@virgin.net

FEBRUARYCOLLECTIONS

#### Black bins - Mondays

#### Brown bins - Mondays

#### 6th and 20th

**Green box, cardboard, paper and plastic sacks - Tuesdays**

**7th and 21st**

MARGARETTING FRIENDS

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Christmas Quiz - the winner was Mr Ray Ashdown.

Our next meeting is on Monday, 20th February when we look forward to a talk by Mr Peter Parker ‘My Stroke - from Wheelchair to Windsurfer’.

If you would like more information or are interested in joining Margaretting Friends please contact Rosemary Carter on 01277 350553 or just come along to one of our meetings. We meet on the third Monday of every month at 7.30pm in the Chelmer Room.

FAMILY FUN DAY

 This year the Family Fun Day and Horticultural Show will be held on Saturday 14 July. It’s a great day out for all the family, which includes stalls, rides, events and refreshments.

 The show also includes judging home grown produce, baked goods and preserves. We would love as many people as possible to enter their produce into the show. A full list of entries will be available in June.

 Meanwhile, the enclosed flier highlights some of the items you can start thinking about growing.

 Volunteers are needed to help on the day of the show, so if you are interested look out for more information on how to get involved in the June edition of this newsletter.

RECENT INCIDENTS

Fire in the bin, Village Hall - 27 December - 03:00 hrs.

Theft, Plant stolen from Ivy Barn Cottages (between 24/12/2011 and 28/12/2011)

If anyone is seen acting suspiciously please can they let me know.

*Kay Fleming Police Community Support Officer 71329*

*Email: kay.fleming@essex.pnn.police.uk*

*Direct Dial: 101 Fax: 01245 329551*

VILLAGE HALL-ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY

WEEKLY UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

Mondays **Pilates** 9.30-10.30am 10.45-11.30am & 7-8pm **in the Main Hall**

 **Margaretting Friends** 20th at 7.30pm **in the Chelmer Room**

Tuesdays **Stitch and Chat** 7th and 21st 9.30-12.00 noon **in the Meeting Room**

 **Art Class** (not 14th February) 2-4pm **in the Chelmer Room**

 **M/S Society** 28th 7.30pm i**n the Main Hall**

 **Eastern Angles - ‘Private Resistance’** 21st 7.30pm **in the Main Hall**

Wednesdays **Dance to Fitness**  9.30-10.30am **in the Main Hall**

 **French Classes** 10am-12 **in the Meeting Room**

 **Over 60s Club** 8th and 22nd 2-4pm **in the Main Hall**

 **Evening Bingo** 15th and 29th 7.30-9.30pm **in the Main Hall**

 **Aerobics** (new class) 15th 7-8pm **in the Chelmer Room**

Thursdays **Pilates** 9.30-10.30am and 7.30-8.30pm **in the Main Hall**

 **Village Hall Committee Meeting** 2nd 7.30pm **in the Meeting Room**

 **Parish Council Meeting** 9th 7.30pm **in the meeting room**

 **Queens Jubilee Planning meeting** 16th 7.30pm **in the Chelmer Room**

 **Essex Handicraft-**mini corsage workshop 23rd 7pm i**n the Chelmer Room**

Fridays **Stitch and Chat** 9.30-12noon **in the Main Hall**

 **Hindu Society** 3rd 6.30pm **in the Meeting Room**

 **Hindu Society** 24th 5pm **in the Main Hall**

Saturdays **Pilates** 11th and 25th 9.30 - 11am **in the Main Hall**

Sundays **Hindu Society** 19th 10am **in the Meeting Room**

 **Loose Threads Patchwork Workshop** 19th 9.30am-6pm **in the Main Hall**

*For further details or queries for private functions*

*please contact April Nixon on 07794 187741*

**MOBILE LIBRARY**

Fortnightly on Thursday afternoons 9th and 23rd February at 3.20-3.35pm in Maldon Road in the lay-by opposite the playing field.

**SHOPPER BUS**

Margaretting to Asda Supermarket, Chelmer Village - Tuesday mornings

Margaretting to Tesco Supermarket, Wood Street, - Thursday mornings

leaving Orton Close at 11.00am, Maldon Road at 11.02am, Main Road at 11.04am.

**TRUST BUS**

Margaretting to Ingatestone, Friday mornings

leaving the Pond, Main Road at 9.55am, Orton Close at 10.00am and returning from Ingatestone at 11.15am

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