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The Chappel & Wakes Colne

Village Reporter

MAY & JUNE 2019 Issue no. 94

Your free magazine for local news, information and forthcoming events in the Parishes of Wakes Colne & Chappel



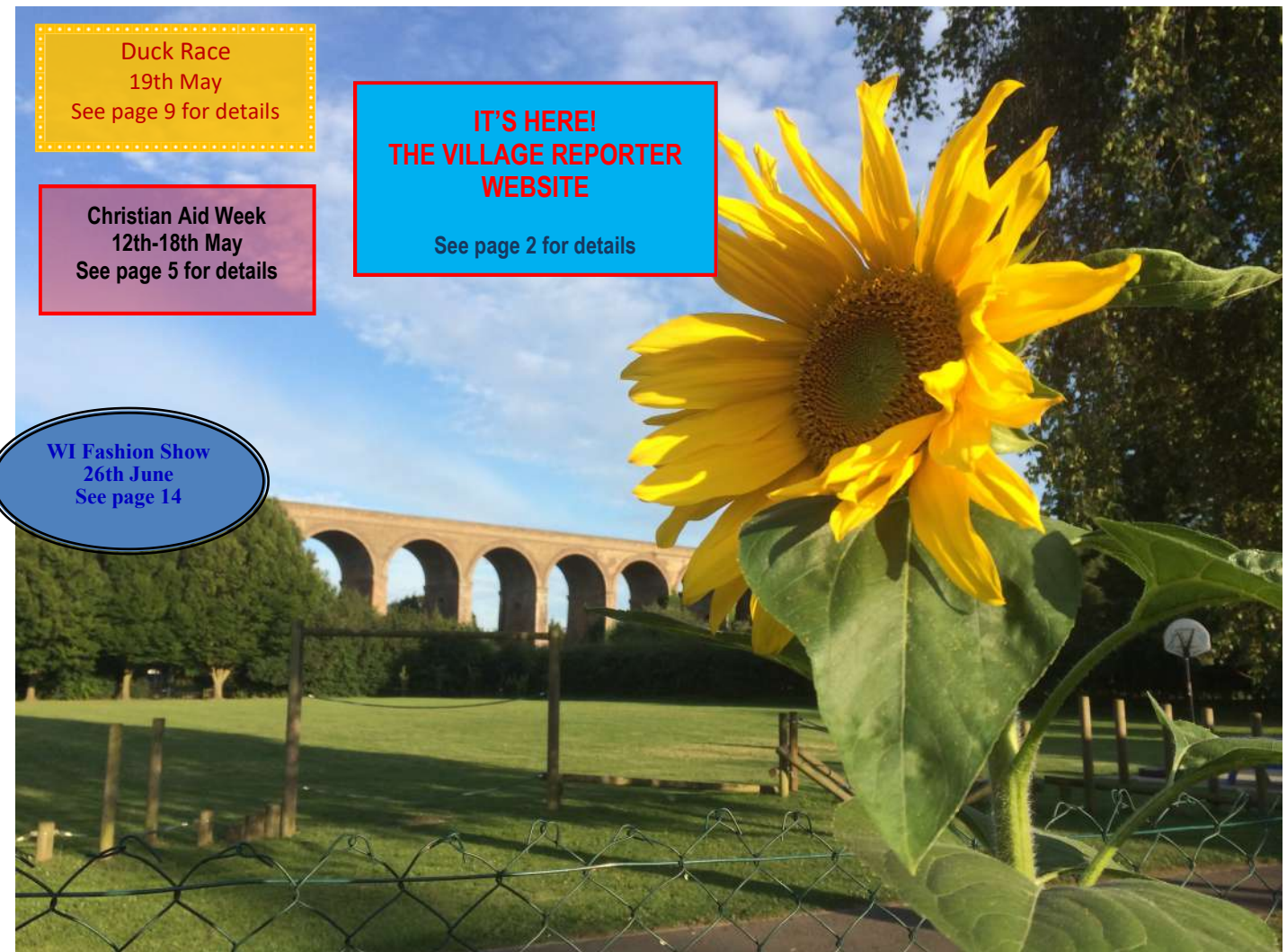
Duck Race
19th May
See page 9 for details

IT'S HERE!
THE VILLAGE REPORTER
WEBSITE

See page 2 for details

Christian Aid Week
12th-18th May
See page 5 for details

WI Fashion Show
26th June
See page 14



Photograph taken by Wendy Bryant

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Press date for the July & August issue - Monday 17th June 2019

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Local Information

Earls Colne Surgery: Appointments 01787 222022
Dispensary 01787 223408
Bures Surgery Appointments 01787 227529

Borough Councillor Peter Chillingworth 01206 240230
County Councillor Anne Brown 01206 321241
Police Colchester Station 0300 333 4444 (non emerg. 101
emerg. 999)
Travel Line Public Transport Info. 0870 608260
Chappel C of E School Head Teacher Julie Ingram 01787 222296
Churches:
Chappel & Wakes Colne
C of E Rev. John Richardson 01206 211481
Chappel U R C Rev. Kenneth N Forbes 01206 547920
Wakes Colne Post Office 01787 222449
Rail Enquiries 08457 484950

Parish Councils:
Chappel Clerk Ms. Helen Cook 07583004252
Chappel Website www.chappel.org
Chappel Chairperson Mrs. Sue Chamley 01787 222774
Wakes Colne Clerk Ms. Diane Jacob 07508787869
Wakes Colne Website www.wakescolne.org
Wakes Colne Vice Chairperson Cllr. Stephen Scrase
Local walking group 01206 240551 Chris Manning
Cricket Club 01787 228081 Robin Carter
Dog Training 01206 240328 Val Sayer
East Anglian Railway Museum Peter Martin/Mike Stanbury on 01206 242524
Royal British Legion (Ladies) 01206 240328 Val Sayer
Women's Institute 01787 223855 Neris Roberts
Village Hall 07771622525 Jim Taylor
Village Hall 0794 9510523 Christine Underwood (Bookings Clerk)
Citizens Advice Bureau 0870 126 4065
Childline 0800 1111
Samaritans 8457 909090
Rivers/Floodline 0845 988 1188

MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS TO SWAN GROVE TIMETABLE

Every 3 weeks on a Tuesday between 1.45-2.15pm
21st May, 11th June, 2nd and 23rd July

HOUSEHOLD ITEM DROP OFF SERVICE

Swan Grove 8-9.15am
1st June, and 27th July
For the disposal of bulky items not normally collected
with household waste (no fridge/freezers, hazardous
waste or large items)

Knitting and Crocheting Club

If you are interested in joining our group either as a knitter,
crocheter or would like to learn either of these skills, we
meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Chappel
and Wakes Colne Village Hall from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. The
cost is £3 which includes tea/coffee and cake.

For further details please contact Frances on
07854584371 or lodgefd1957@gmail.co.uk

St. Andrew's Church, Earls Colne

Recital performances
Free music recital open to all, refreshments available.
12.30 - 2pm

The dates are:
Thursday 9th May 2019
Thursday 13th June 2019
Thursday 11th July 2019
Thursday 8th August 2019
Thursday 12th September 2019

BRITISH LEGION

We are a small friendly group who meet once a month
for a pub lunch. Looking forward to seeing you all at the
fete at our book stall. Please bring any books on the day.
We would be pleased for new people to join us. For
further information please contact:

Val Sayer on 01206 240328

CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE

VILLAGE REPORTER WEBSITE

Yes, at last we have a website where you can view past
issues of the magazine, find local information and
forthcoming events, view the gallery of photographs
taken by villagers and have an opportunity to send in
your stories and questions to share.

<https://www.chappelandwakescolnevillagereporter.com/>

The website has been kindly produced and will be
regularly updated by

Charlie Sexton

FIBRE BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATE

County Broadband have reached a point where they can
enter the next stage! They will be conducting surveys and
designs. Then they will formally announce their
construction schedule for our villages.

Watch this space!

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CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL

SUCCESSFUL ROCK CHOIR CONCERT and Chairmans comment

The Concert was another great success this year with brilliant professional
performances from Adam and the Rock Choir singers as usual. They raised a
huge sum of £770 for the Village Hall Renovation Fund for which the Village
Hall committee are very grateful.

I would just like to reiterate what she has to say about the make up of the
wonderful audience. By far the vast majority came from outside of our two
villages from which only a very few came along.

Thank you to "the few".

The running and maintenance of **your** Village Hall requires a lot of hard
work from a small team of dedicated volunteers and especially when it
comes to putting on such a show as this. The Village Hall Committee
continually struggles to find enough funds to continue with this work and
we would like to see much more support of our events from our local
residents.

Due to lack of sufficient funds, we have had to delay and modify our plans
for renovation of the Hall entrance and the adding of extra hall capacity.
When we have the new plans available, the Committee will call for a Village
Community meeting to discuss those plans and the way forward for your
Hall. We would hope to have that meeting later in the Summer and look
forward to a large attendance.

TABLE TOP SALE

A Table Top Sale will be held in the Hall as a Fund raising event and will be
held on 15th June from 10.00 to 17.00.

Entrance fee of 50p and should you want a table, the charge is £5.00.

Please come and support this event.

VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE

The Village Hall is an ideal venue for many types of events and meetings. A
number of groups are enjoying the facilities of the Village Hall and our low
cost charges.

Art Classes: Contact Michele on 01787 379550

Knitting Circle: Contact Frances Lodge on 01787 224404

Womens Institute: Contact 01206 240661

Parties and Anniversaries:

Also some residents already use the Hall for their family party and other
celebrations and they tell us that it is a great place to hold these events at a
very favourable price. Visit our web-site (address below) to view the
pictures of the Hall and check out the Hire charges. The rates of hire for the
Hall are on a per ½ or full day basis and are very competitive with other
local venues. So please remember the Village Hall when you are planning
your next family or Club occasion.

CONTACTS Chairman: Jim Taylor 07771 622525 1jimtaylor9@gmail.com

Bookings: Christine Underwood 07983 242517 underwood1@live.co.uk

web-site: www.essexinfo.net/chappel-and-wakes-colne-village-hall

ROCK CHOIR CONCERT—31st March 2019

We raised the magnificent sum of **£770** at this event .. the best so far!
**THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO ALL OF THOSE WHO HELPED, SUPPORTED AND
CAME ALONG TO THIS EVENT** – special thanks to Christ Eaton at the Post Office
for selling tickets.

My grateful thanks to **ADAM and the ROCK CHOIR SINGERS** .. just brilliant,
absolutely brilliant – their performances were so professional. Without **ROCK
CHOIR** we wouldn't have had such a fun-packed time and raised such a healthy sum
of money to keep the Village Hall viable for us all to continue to enjoy for many years
to come. In 2017 we raised £616 – in 2018 we raised £700 AND this year we raised
the huge sum of **£770**.

Everyone, without exception, raved about how much they enjoyed the Concert and the
singing of the choir; if it's possible, I thought this performance was the best so
far; absolutely brilliant, and, all the singers thoroughly enjoyed what they were singing
and were happy and smiling, and was the audience.

I'd like to thank Valerie and Patrick Dent for their input, Sunday just wouldn't have
happened without them. Valerie not only made, filled and decorated 14 cakes, but she
came along on the day and served the refreshments in the afternoon. Thanks to Sue
Chamley for the loan of her freezer and for her input in serving the tea/coffee and
cakes. I'm also sure you will know that there is a huge amount of hard work in
organising events of this nature; Patrick did the advertising, tickets and helped getting
the Hall ready for the day, and, he collected all the prizes for the raffle. He also
managed to get a bottle of House of Commons whisky from our MP, which he
collected, and he and Val Sayer auctioned it off for a fantastic sum of £37. Val Sayer
and Helen Langthorne sold £190 of raffle tickets in the Hall on the day – well done
ladies. The audience was mainly made up of people throughout Essex, and albeit few
local residents came, **ALL THE TICKETS WERE SOLD** – the atmosphere was electric
with excitement and we were full to the gunnels, in fact we had to turn away 36 people
as we just couldn't squeeze them in.

Christine Underwood ~ on behalf of the C&WC Village Hall Committee

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Jackie Parry tel: 07790 771307
jparry.physiopilates@gmail.com



News and Notices from The Hobbies

Following the very sad loss of both Sue and Ian Stratford, the club are delighted to announce that our new Club President is Richard Johnson. Richard has progressed through the ranks after being roped in by Ian Stratford to play for the Has Beens, then taking over from Ian as Captain when Ian became unwell. Richard has also played for the friendly and league sides when required. Cricket is in the family's blood with both his children Charlie and Bella playing for the Club. His wife Jo is also heavily involved as Committee member and can also be seen with a scorebook in her hands especially at Colts matches.



As this is being written, the new Cricket season is less than a week away. Ground preparations have gone really well helped by the improved weather of late. The ground

looks fantastic as can be seen from the photograph taken recently. We are so very lucky to have a devoted Groundsman that takes great pride in his work.

We have again entered the National Village Cup this year which sees a home game against Stradbroke in Suffolk in the first round on Sunday 28th April.

This year sees us playing league cricket on Saturdays only with sides playing in the Two Counties Championship Division 8 and 9 under Captains Henry Dow and Ben Jackson.

Our friendly side also have many fixtures which will be mainly on Sundays and is once again run by Bill Maytham with assistance from Ray Attwood whilst Richard Johnson is once again looking after the Has Beens.

We also continue in the Colchester Evening Cricket League playing in the Wednesday League. This is a crash bang wallop form of cricket consisting of 15 8 ball overs per side. So, if you fancy seeing a shorter and more exciting form of the game why not pop up to the ground.

Children's cricket is also heavily catered for with Kwik Cricket, U11's, U12's, U14's and U15's. This will run throughout the season until the end of July. Colts training is split between Monday's for the younger colts and the older Colts will train on a Tuesday evening along with the adult players both with a 6-6.30pm start.

We will once again be hosting our own Kwik Cricket tournament with teams from all over North Essex taking part on Friday 10th May commencing from 6pm. This is an evening where we will be needing loads of help as there will be many games taking place at any one time. There will be bar-b-qs and the bar will be open, so why not come along and have a look at what goes on at the only sporting venue in the villages of Chappel & Wakes Colne.

CWCCC are also proud to announce that we are again an approved Club to host ALL STARS CRICKET, please see information below or contact Bill Maytham on 01206 240223 for further information or the cricket club website.

About All Stars Cricket

All Stars Cricket is a brand new initiative from the England and Wales Cricket Board aimed at providing children aged five to eight with a great first experience in cricket. The programme is delivered across England and Wales at over 1,800 fully accredited All Stars Cricket centres. It is a fun and active way to develop your child's skills, and through our eight-week programme they will learn lots – as well as make new friends – in a safe and inclusive environment.

All girls and boys are welcome, and each registered child will receive a pack of cricket goodies including a cricket bat, ball, back-pack, water bottle, personalised shirt and cap to keep so that they can continue their love of cricket when they go home.

Registration is now open for the programme, which starts in May 2018.



Vice Presidents Day will this year be held on Sunday 7th July, commencing from 12.00. Everybody as always is welcome to attend. All we need now is a fine summer and plenty of Cricket. Fixtures and results can be viewed on the club website www.cwccc.co.uk or www.facebook.com/groups/cwccc and twitter.com/cwcccricquet

CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE WOMENS INSTITUTE

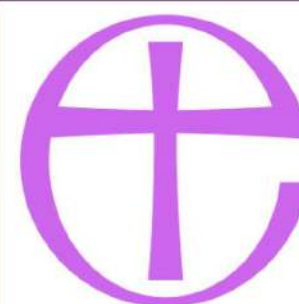
Hello again from the village WI and once again what a varied itinerary we have had in the last few months. The February meeting was a talk entitled Suffragettes and the Petticoat Rebellion presented by Lucy Tranquillian who has visited us before. Lucy is a stunt lady who is just amazing. Apparently she was used as a stunt suffragette in the film of the same name and this sparked her interest in the Suffragette movement which she delved into in great detail. We were told so many stories which were mostly unknown to us of how the women profiled their cause. It was made more interesting as Lucy is such a good actor and she made the stories come to life with her portrayal of the characters – we were all mesmerized. It was great to hear the inside story of how stunts are put together and the scenes created.

The March meeting was a complete contrast – an interactive presentation by Neil Bromley, a qualified martial arts instructor who showed us simple ways of self defence and demonstrated different holds with the aid of his young assistant from the audience. It was so nice to have young visitors and guests joining us and hopefully we all got something out of the evening – our instructor said the main thing is to be aware when you are out and about. Also in March was the County Annual Meeting held at Charter Hall and attended by ladies from all over Essex. The guest speaker was the Reverend Richard Coles, vicar of Finedon in Northamptonshire, former instrumentalist with the 1980's group The Communards and Strictly Come Dancing contestant. He was a wonderful speaker, highly informative and entertaining. The afternoon was Abba Rival – so singing along to all our Abba favourites plus some ladies who donned Abba outfits!

Themed towards spring the April meeting was a demonstration and slide show on hanging baskets by Debbie Hart, a horticulturalist and fountain of knowledge. It was handy to pick up some tips and ideas for planting up – inspiration to visit the garden centres. Once again it was great to welcome lots of visitors which made the evening more enjoyable.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS ARE OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE SOCIAL SIDE OF THE EVENING. JUNE 26TH 7.30pm IS THE FASHION SHOW IN THE VILLAGE HALL PRESENTED BY EDINBURGH WOOLLEN MILL. JULY 17TH WILL BE CRUISING SCANDINAVIA – ALL WELCOME

Dorothyb.crees@googlemail.com



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Rector of Wakes Colne & Chappel – Rev. John Richardson M A
The Rectory, Brook Road, Great Tey Tel: 01206 211481 Email: john.richardson195@btinternet.com

From the Rector...

Dear Readers,

Continuing our mini-series of important Christian festivals, we come this time to Pentecost Sunday (otherwise known as Whitsunday). This year Pentecost falls on the 9th June and is always fifty days (or seven weeks) after Easter Day. The Christian church has borrowed the word Pentecost from the Jewish religion. In Judaism, Pentecost was a harvest festival celebration and took place fifty days after Passover (our Easter).

We are told in the Bible that the first Christians were gathered together in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost (Acts chapter 2 verse 1). It was then that the Holy Spirit came upon them all with the sound of rushing wind - fulfilling the prophecy of the Old Testament prophet Joel.

Since that day, the Church has kept Pentecost Sunday as the "birthday of the Church" - the day when the church began her work and witness empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Without the gifts of the Holy Spirit the church would hardly exist at all and so Pentecost is a summer festival that the church celebrates with great thanksgiving. "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all gathered together.... and they were filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2). The Sunday after Pentecost Sunday is Trinity Sunday - the Trinity being the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

With best wishes

Rev John Richardson



Treasurer: Richard Bareham
Tel. 01206 210799 Email: richdcb@aol.com
Secretary: Richard Harris
Tel. 01787 222722

From the Registers

Funeral

Hugh Urry at Wakes Colne church (1st March)

Baptism

Bryoni Anne Heap at Chappel church (31st March)

Burial of Ashes

Sylvia and Sydney Rownes at Chappel churchyard (9th April)

Church Services

5th May 11 am Holy Communion (Chappel)
12th May 11 am Holy Communion (Wakes Colne)
19th May 11 am Family service (Chappel)
26th May 11 am Holy Communion (Wakes Colne)

2nd June 11 am Holy Communion (Chappel)
9th June 11 am Holy Communion (Wakes Colne)
16th June 11 am Family service (Chappel)
23rd June 11 am Holy Communion (Wakes Colne)
30th June 10 am United Communion service (Chappel)

School services in Chappel church.

The school's collective worship is usually held in Chappel Church on the first Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. All are welcome.

Your Mobile phone - Cybercrime and SMISHING

Smishing - using smart phone texts to phish for victims' confidential information -- is soaring, and it's more dangerous than email phishing.

Phishing - the scam that involves tricking people into giving away confidential information, is surging via text messaging, posing a greater than ever risk of identity theft.

The reason? People trust text messages more than they do email, so they're more likely to fall for the scam.

This type of phishing, better known as "**smishing**," has been around for years but because consumers have wised-up to email tricks and, in fact, are using email less and less for simple messages, scammers have switched their focus to SMS texts to target their victims.

The text usually contains a link that downloads malware, which steals as much data as it can find. And therein lies the threat:

Your smartphone knows a lot more about you than your PC, so an installed piece of malware might steal the phone numbers in your contact list and spread the virus in hopes to exponentially multiply. Even important bits of personal data, like banking credentials or your tracking location, can be at risk.

Scammers are also using texts to pose as tax authorities, not just in the US but also in the UK and Canada. The tactic creates a false sense of realism because many people don't realize that text messages can be a threat. They say that the user is due a tax refund or needs to provide more information," Basically, they try to get users' information, and that can be used for stealing their money.

Research suggests as many as one in three smartphone users had been targeted by a smishing attempt in just six months last year, although the actual number is likely to be higher since most people don't report scam attempts.

What to Do

The best thing you can do to avoid falling victim is to never click on a link inside a text message.

Certainly, you should never respond to a request for a password or other confidential information. Instead, visit the real website of the organization that seems to be asking and check if it's a genuine request.

You should also use extreme caution even if the message asks you to send the word "Stop" to stop receiving messages, as many do, unless you're 100% sure that it's genuine.

Sending a "Stop" message may not land you in immediate trouble but it signals to a phishing scammer that there's a bite on the line.

In fact, for the same reason, you should never reply to text messages from someone you don't know. It simply opens the door for an onslaught of spam.

Block the sender if you can. But otherwise, just delete the message.

And don't share your cell phone number on social media. In addition, it's wise to install an anti-malware app on your phone.

To learn more about **smishing**, and cybercrime prevention see www.getsafeonline.org

For further advice or if you believe that you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime contact

Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or

www.actionfraud.police.uk

Based on an article from: www.scambusters.org

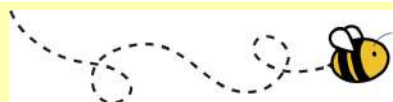
Stephen Armson Smith 74324

Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor

Tele: 101 Extension 407110

Mobile 07527 409720

Bee Lines



So, spring has finally sprung. Time for the first hive inspection of the year. An entire winter spent wondering, hoping against hope, imagining worst case scenarios, was about to be resolved, for better or for worse.

Firstly, however, a new hazard had emerged. Having spent months worrying about starvation, disease and cold or damp weather, a late winter trip to the hives revealed a new threat.

There, in the front wall of the brood nest of one of the hives, was a conical hole, about 5cms in diameter. Closer inspection revealed that the other hives had also been damaged, although only one of the holes went all the way through the wooden box. It was immediately obvious as to the identity of the culprit, it was a woodpecker.

There are several native species of woodpecker, but only one, the green woodpecker, is known to attack hives. Their usual diet of insects in winter is scarce, so they turn to digging for worms. In late winter, if the ground is frozen, they may starve. It is understandable then, that a wooden box full of bees and larvae would appear like a packed lunch to a 'pecker.

Of course, in normal weather any beak penetrating into the nest would immediately be attacked by the bees. In deep cold winter, however, the bees are incapable of movement and tightly clustered together, making them an easy and inviting target for woody. Indeed, whole colony losses can happen, or if the queen is eaten, then the colony is doomed anyway. It would seem that the behaviour is learned by the woodpecker and can be passed to its offspring, so we can expect similar attacks next year, if the winter is harsh.

So how to protect the bees next winter. A cage of chicken wire is the recommended deterrent and will be available next year. The more pragmatic ways are no longer legal. I recall a conversation with a churchwarden who used to keep a pellet gun in the vestry to keep the woodpeckers off of the wooden church spire at White Colne. It raises huge theological questions as to the virtue of one of Gods servants shooting one of His creatures in order to protect His house, but I guess the same arguments could be applied to Death Watch Beetle. In any case recent legislation has solve the dilemma; the woodpeckers are now protected, and the wardens air gun has been confined to the church crypt of history. No wonder we now have so many woodpeckers around and pity the poor bees!

So, it was with more than the usual trepidation that I prepared for the first inspection of spring. This is the most significant event in my beekeeping calendar, as what is revealed now will set the tone for the rest of the season. The big questions to be answered are basically how many bees are present, is the queen both present and laying, and are the bees in good health. Spotting the queen is a big bonus, but this is often difficult. It is not always necessary anyway, as the presence of newly laid eggs and young larvae confirms that the queen is in there somewhere anyway, even if you can't see her.

I could hardly wait to inspect the predated hive; had the woodpecker done any damage, was the queen eaten, how many bees had been destroyed.

Fortunately, the hole in the hive was parallel to the internal frames of the nest. The long sticky tongue of the annoying bird had therefore only had access to the face of two adjacent combs, and no damage had been done to the comb itself.

More importantly, many of the individual honeycomb cells, when inspected, showed small, curled, white larvae at the bottom of the cell, a sure sign that Her Majesty was alive, well, and fertile. As you may imagine, there was great relief all around.

The other hives were all also doing well. In fact, I have never seen such large quantities of bees at this time of year. It is possible that the mild winter helped, and of course, the good summer last year ensured that the bees went into winter in good health, but there is one other possible explanation.

The European Union ban on the use of neonicotide pesticides has been in force for a couple of years now. Opinion is divided as to the long-term effect of these chemicals on honeybees. They certainly don't seem to kill them outright, but some studies suggest that they reduce the lifespan of the bees, and this would lead, inevitably, to smaller colonies. Remove the pesticide and it would seem likely that the colonies would be larger, simply because the individual bees were living longer.

What is certain, is that one year's observations over four hives is not scientific proof either way. We await the continuation, or lifting, of the pesticide ban, when the bee colonies will either increase or decrease in size or vary from year to year as they always have done. Time, as ever, will be the ultimate judge.

your Bee Correspondent, The Old Drone

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CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE CSW NEWS

Cllr Anne Brown advised me that eight years ago Essex CC Highways Engineer had reported that the road from Popes Lane to Oak Road was "not fit for purpose". Every month for the last four years, I've written to Cllr Brown and Essex Highways [with copy to Bernard Jenkin] to ask when the road will be de-potholed and repaired. I was advised that it would be done in ~ 2016, then 2017, then 2018 .. but **WOW** .. it has, in 2019 - (1st April!) . It all looks good. Only question: was the problem of water ingress onto the road surface attended to? No kerbs at the edges of the tarmac which could easily result in the tarmac "shifting" in the future, and, possibly more pot-holes. Congratulations Essex CC Highway and Cllr Brown. old adage: *better late than never*.

C&WC CSW Team is carrying out CSW duties AND it's still endeavouring to recruit more members to join the Speed Watch Team for both villages .. anyone available to give a hand for an hour?? From CSW Log Sheets the traffic doesn't seem to be slowing down; hence our request for more volunteers to help in our quest to reduce speeding motorists within our two villages ... please contact **Patrick Dent – 01787 220147** .. if you are able to help, I'll be more than happy to talk to you.

News from Essex Police:

Latest figures show that of the 787 vehicle occupants who died in 2017, 212 were not wearing seat belts. This represents a 7% rise on 2016 and indicates that non-seat belt use is increasing. As such, seat belt compliance is one of the 'fatal 4' areas that the National Police Chief's Council Roads Policing Strategy is focused on.

The objectives of this campaign are:

To highlight the resolve of police forces tackling this issue

Raise awareness in drivers that the possibility of being prosecuted whilst driving without wearing a seat belt is a real one

Encourage drivers to comply with the seatbelt legislation to save lives and prevent injuries

Identify collisions occurring during the week of action where an individual involved was not wearing a seat belt

Proactively engage with the public via social media to increase awareness and inform drivers and passengers of the risks of not wearing a seatbelt

April Using a Mobile Phone Whilst Driving Campaign

This Mobile Phone Whilst Driving Campaign will consist of a Communications campaign, which will then be backed up with a two-week enforcement campaign. During 2018 in Essex there were over 2,500 Mobile Phone Offences.

Since 2003 it has been an offence to operate a hand-held phone whilst driving or whilst supervising a learner driver.

A mobile phone or device is treated as hand-held if it is held at some point during the course of making or receiving a call or any other interactive communication function.

A person may be regarded as driving whilst the engine is running, even if the vehicle is stationary, including stopped at traffic lights and queuing in traffic.

For using a hand-held phone when driving, the penalty is 6 points and a £200 fine.

New drivers will lose their licence if they have passed their test within the last 2 years

Patrick Dent for C&WC CSW – 01787 220147



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Railways in Chappel & Wakes Colne Part 3

In the last article we closed in 1847, just as the railways were threatening to come to our part of Essex, with the plans to build a line from the Eastern Counties Railway at Marks Tey, to the important market town of Sudbury in Suffolk. Because the company promoting the line wanted a branch to serve Halstead, there was to be a junction and station at Chappel (although technically the site is in Wakes Colne). Interestingly, the ability to tap into investors at Halstead, along with strong opposition from the owners of the river Stour Navigation, is why the line joining Sudbury to the outside world didn't follow the more logical route along the Stour valley to Manningtree. But back to the story. Engineer Peter Bruff had forged his reputation on building lines more cost effectively than his contemporaries and now was faced by the not insignificant obstacle of crossing the wide and deep Colne Valley at Chappel. The contractor George Wythes had tendered £190,000 to construct the line, including the short section from Colchester station to the Hythe.

The route starts at 35 metres above sea level at Marks Tey, passes through a ridge of 55 metres at Moor Road in Great Tey, before the land starts to drop down towards the river at Chappel. The northern side of the valley rises sharply to a watershed of 70 metres near the water tower and then then drops down to Bures, after which it shadows the river Stour into Sudbury.

Mr Bruff knew that burrowing into the two ridges of high ground either side of the Colne Valley would not only lower the height of the crossing needed, but also generate excavated spoil from the cuttings to use for embankments on both sides of the valley. As with all engineering, it was a compromise between the cost of digging deeper into the cuttings verses the cost of building a longer viaduct. In the 1840s there was considerable discussion about the merits of wood as a material for building bridges. Isambard Kingdom Brunel, who was nothing if not unconventional, had made a virtue of using laminated lengths of cheap Baltic timber to build his viaducts that crossed the numerous steep river valleys of Devon and Cornwall. The fact that the sailors from nearby Plymouth were used to working up the masts of ships also helped his decision. Our spendthrift man Bruff decided he could do it cheaper still by using brick arches supported on hollow brick piers, each pier pierced by yet more arches to save on bricks and weight. The lovely soft red bricks that were made locally and can be seen in old buildings in the village are not strong enough to pile up that high, so he needed to make really good bricks locally, and lots of them. Fortunately for him, he found that he could make good bricks using clay excavated from the cutting over the watershed at Mount Bures. The secret was to mix and cook the clay with ashes and charcoal which gives very hard bricks with distinctive yellow grey colouration.

By giving the bridge a 1 in 120 gradient climbing toward Bures he was came up with the structure we see today. The facts are mind-blowing, given that this behemoth was built by hand at a time when our navy was still powered by sail. The viaduct is 1060 ft long and has 32 arches, each 30ft wide. The maximum height from foundation to the top of the parapet wall is 83ft 6inches and the foundations nearest the river are up to 12ft deep. This is a one very big viaduct, even by modern standards. Bruff was very proud of his viaduct and even commissioned a painting of it, a copy of which is in the village hall.



The whole line, including the viaduct, was built to accommodate twin tracks although only one was ever provided. The other thing that was not provided, at least initially, was the branch line to Halstead. The company did build the proposed junction station at Chappel, even though the facilities were rather meagre initially. The white buildings that form part of the station cottage today are the original station buildings. The ornate buildings of the railway museum date to much later on.

We know a bit about the people who actually built the viaduct. Over 600 were employed, mostly agricultural workers drawn from East Anglia as farm wages were very depressed and starvation was a real issue at the time. Working for George Wythes they built a temporary encampment on the Millennium Field and made the bricks nearby. Local lads were employed to keep the camp fires burning and wages were paid fortnightly. The work was unimaginably hard by modern standards and they consumed huge quantities of food and drink just to make up the calories used. A list of the workers building the later line to Halstead in the 1861 census shows that most men were under 45 and originally from Essex. There is a nice story that a valuable and extremely rare gold sovereign was placed in the foundations of the viaduct by the company directors, only for a very similar coin to be exchanged for beer at the Rose and Crown pub in Chappel later that day. A Norwich bricklayer who had been at the ceremony was charged with theft but was acquitted on a technicality.

The official first passenger train was loaded with the usual collection of dignitaries and left Marks Tey for Sudbury with great ceremony on July 2nd 1849. Amusingly a decorated garland arch built over the railway at Marks Tey was a few inches too short and was collected and carried by the engine for the rest of the journey. A silver band met the train at Bures and at Sudbury the church bells rang out in celebration, despite the station not yet being fully completed. The rival Eastern Counties Railway soon swallowed up the company, having watched the original shareholders taking all of the initial risk.

The branch to Halstead was built as the Colne Valley and Halstead Railway in 1860, financed nominally by Halstead businessmen but in practice by a small number of city merchants. With both lines now completed and generating revenue, the rival companies rushed plans out to extend their lines towards Haverhill. The very poor Colne Valley Railway actually completed their line first, extending via Hedingham in 1863, only to be out manoeuvred by the Eastern Counties Railway who extended the line beyond Sudbury towards Haverhill in 1865 but added in a link from Haverhill to the Cambridge line and a junction at Long Melford that linked up to Bury St Edmunds. The Colne Valley Railway had little choice but to use the much larger station of their rivals in Haverhill.

Despite all this enthusiasm to extend their empires, there was never enough traffic to justify the cost of laying the second track over the viaduct and the Colne Valley line remained very frugally operated and maintained for the rest of its life. The end of the 1860s saw the effective end of railway building in Essex, apart from two minor light railways in the early 20th century, the Kelvedon and Tollesbury and the Elsenham and Thaxted railways. Apart from the renaming of the Eastern Counties Railway to the rather grander sounding Great Eastern Railway, the railways in our part of the world were to remain little changed until the outbreak of the Great War in 1914. This world event was to change the way our railways were run and would start the long decline process that led to those sad words on Ordnance Survey Maps: Line of Former Railway.

But that is a story for the last instalment of our story.

Bruce Knights



MINISTER: The Revd Kenneth M Forbes BA BD. Tel (01206) 547920. E-mail ken.forbes@virginmedia.com

The Minister writes . . .

In some ways the Bible is a bit like the internet. It has its 'most visited' pages, and it has its dark little corners that are seldom talked about except by those with potentially sinister interests; it is a treasury of information and advice on a myriad of subjects, but parts of it may have been written by people with a point to make or a score to settle; it can be an invaluable help to us as we struggle with the complexities of life, affirming our achievements and encouraging us in times of difficulty and stress, but it hasn't been updated for many hundreds of years and parts of it seem hardly appropriate to life in the 21st century; it is trusted by millions of people as a God-given guide to life in a dangerous and confusing world, but it can be a playground for charlatans and scammers whose aim is to oppress and deceive.

So, advice for readers of the Bible may be similar to that given to users of the internet. Pay careful attention to where you are and what you are reading; only follow the advice of trusted contributors; don't assume that advice given for one specific situation applies universally; compare the content of various pages to see if they agree.

In the context of the Bible, our most trusted contributor is Jesus. While remaining aware that even Matthew, Mark, Luke and John had their own priorities, we take Jesus' words and actions as the basis of all Christian life and service.

If we come across something in the Bible that seems to encourage violence, or supports slavery, or condones the oppression of women, we go back to Jesus and ask what would be his message on the subject. In him we find a true picture of the Kingdom of God.

Ken



May and June Preachers

Sundays at 6.30 pm

URC unless indicated otherwise

May

- 5 Canon Roy Tricker (Anglican)
- 12 Rev'd Neil Coulson (Baptist)
- 19 Michael Topple
- 26 Rev'd Ken Forbes

June

- 2 Rev'd Jenny Martin
- 9 William Glasse Pentecost
- 16 Brian Clow Trinity Sunday
- 23 Rev'd Ken Forbes
- 30 Martin Ellis (Methodist)

Reflection . . .

lines by John Newton 1725-1807

'Kindly spring again is here, trees and fields in bloom appear... Lord afford a spring to me, let me feel like what I see... Soon Thy presence will restore life to what seemed dead before.'

BEACON HOUSE, COLCHESTER – A local charity support for homeless people

Gifts of non-perishable food, clothing, toiletries and all things needed by homeless people are always welcome. Gifts may be brought to our Church's COLLECTION POINT - a plastic box at the back of the Church - clearly marked. The Church is OPEN all day on SUNDAYS and also during Coffee and Chat on Wednesday morning first week each month

Wednesdays at the Chapel

Regular monthly events – you are invited to join with us

First Wednesday

Coffee and Chat

10.30-11.30am Have a break and chat over coffee. No charge

Fourth Wednesday

Bible Study and Discussion

10.00-11.00am This informal session begins with coffee

ORGAN RESTORATION APPEAL

to be launched at the RECITAL, 18th May 7.00pm

Patrons: Sir Bob Russell, High Steward of Colchester and former MP
Cllr. Nigel Chapman, Chairman, Friends of Colchester's Moot Hall organ

Our historic pipe organ, circa 1840, is in need of a complete overhaul and extensive repair. We aim to raise £10,000 towards the cost. Any donations will be gratefully received. Please contact: Anthony Percival t. 01206 240442 e. arpchapel@btinternet.com

Nature notes April 2019

A cloudless blue sky, 17 degrees. On the ivy in the hedge, a Red Admiral and a Brimstone. In the garden, daffodils in full bloom. The date - 24th February 2019.

After that, things chilled down a bit and there was noticeably more activity on our feeders. A solitary male Siskin turned up one morning among the dozens of Goldfinches, our most numerous garden visitor these days. Given the proximity of the river, the surprise here is that we don't see Siskins far more frequently.

These early months did bring two new addition to the garden list. First a Redpoll in late March. Not a rare bird, and being basically a brown job is probably overlooked, but I'd never seen one in the garden before. I noticed this lone small finch perched in the crab apple tree where the feeders hang from, and by the time I'd retreated quietly into the house for the binoculars, there it was having a good peck at the sunflower seeds. A bit like a Linnet, I suppose, but wearing a distinctive red cap. The other new addition had been heard many times before but never seen - a Little Owl, perched on a post by the veggie patch one recent early morning.

The big changeover is now in full swing, although it's never a clear cut winter-out / summer-in thing. For instance, on 17th April I saw my first Swallow locally and the first House Martin was inspecting an old mud nest under our roof eaves. And then on that same day, a loose flock of about 20 Fieldfares flew over going roughly northwards, a few giving that distinctive harsh chattering call of this winter thrush. If previous form is a reliable guide, these first House Martins will be an advance guard, a kind of reconnaissance party, and they'll now vanish to return with the main group at the start of May.

Generally everywhere now, Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps are singing away in anything resembling a clump of trees. And there are loads of predatory Sparrowhawks around: I've seen them everywhere, and mostly the larger darker females. One zipped across the road and into gardens in Stanway, another the same closer to Copford, yet another across the road in Aldham. There are lots of Buzzards around too; I've seen them everywhere from Colchester to Stansted.

Meanwhile, the butterflies are emerging fast. The next Brimstone I saw was on a very sunny 24th March, and then more in mid-April along with a few Peacocks. My first Orange Tip was one in the garden on 19th April.

I've been going over to Abberton frequently to see when the first Little-ringed Plovers would turn up. Answer for me was 16th April, when two were very close to the easterly causeway munching on the huge hatch of non-biting midges. This hatch was so big that much of the reservoir was seemingly attracting every Black-headed Gull in Essex; I'd never seen so many of them here feasting on this insect abundance.

On that day at the reservoir – 16th April – there were also a few Common Terns among the Gulls. The other bird around, which I didn't expect in such numbers, was Yellow Wagtail. While Grey Wagtail is actually a bit yellow, Yellow Wagtail is correctly named; a yellow that can be seen for miles. These were brilliant yellow, unavoidably visible as they pattered about low in the reeds and grass. I saw half a dozen; others reported treble that number at other parts of the reservoir.

Nightingales are one of the earlier summer migrant returners. I have not been over to their Fingringhoe stronghold yet. The evening guided walks there start on 23rd April, go on for three weeks and are well worth doing. No need to go over there yet though, as the first ones I heard were again at Abberton in the bit of woodland at the entrance to the new visitors' centre there. I heard my first there on that 16th April visit, and people reported they'd been singing a couple of days before that. The next day there were at least 4 there, signing away mid-morning. Not giving sustained full-throttle yet, more a longish warm-up warble, trills and grunts. As always, they are very hard to see in the dense scrub and brambles they like so much, but I did get a brief glimpse of a small reddish-brown bird scuttling from one bit of scrub to another. Roll on the Swifts – they'll be with us later in April.

Tony Witcher

Public Rights of Way – Usage and the Law

As a recently retired Rights of Way Inspector in the South of England I often find the same old questions and issues coming up when talking to landowners and footpath users. As the weather is getting better I thought it would be a good time to provide some guidance on this.

In my experience, the majority of disputes between landowners and walkers occur when someone is not using the right of way correctly or is not on the right of way itself. The below frequently asked questions cover some of the most common questions.

Who can use a Right of Way?

Footpaths can only be used on foot – no cycles or horses. There is not even a right to push a cycle along a footpath.

Bridleways can be used on foot, cycle or horseback.

Restricted byways can be used on foot, cycle, horseback and horse and carriage, i.e. all non-motorised vehicles.

Byways can be used by all user groups detailed above and also include motorised vehicles.

You may take a horse, cycle or vehicle along a footpath with the permission of the landowner, although the county council may require the landowner to reinstate, at their own cost, any damage done to the surface of a footpath caused by these uses.

What about the Right to Roam?

Contrary to popular belief there is no right to roam, although there is open access in certain parts of the country this does not relate to anywhere around the village and its surrounding villages. Therefore you only have a right to access the countryside where there is a right of way as detailed in 1 above. Farmers have to abide by strict rules governed by the Rural Payments Agency. This means that they leave wide verges around fields as wildlife areas. These should not be an invitation to walkers/cyclists/horses. They have to maintain these areas and establish seed or flower mixes and usage by the public conflicts with this. Therefore as long as you are on a public right of way the farmer will have no reason to tell you off.

Can I walk my dog on a Public Right of Way?

Yes, but it should be kept under close control and must remain on the right of way itself.

How can I find a Right of Way?

The County Council holds the definitive maps showing the accurate location of public rights of way and this should always be referred to in dispute situations. However for general use Ordnance Survey sell paper maps and have a useful subscription app for phones, which costs from £19.99 a year. This will show you your location and where the rights of way are, amongst other things. It is possible to see the map without paying the subscription but this is not accurate, as it does not distinguish between private tracks and those with public rights of way over them.

Who is responsible for the maintenance of a Public Right of Way?

The land owner/occupier is responsible for maintaining the width of a right of way. They are also responsible for trees and hedges against a footpath and cutting back any overhanging growth. They are also responsible for cross-field paths, which must be usable within 2 weeks of cultivation and kept clear from impassable crops.

The County Council is responsible for the surface of the footpath and keeping vegetation like grass and nettles cut.

How wide should a footpath be?

Field edge paths should be 1.5 metres wide.

Cross-field paths should be 1 metre wide. Note that when using a right of way you only have a right to access the actual width of the right of way, you may go around temporary obstructions such as fallen trees but a muddy surface is not a reason to deviate from the path. Appropriate footwear should be worn to ensure that you can access the path without the need to deviate.

I have found an issue with a Right of Way, who should I contact?

If you have a good relationship with the landowner you could contact them or alternatively you can contact Essex County Council Rights of Way team. You should report any issues that affect the safe use of a public right of way. For example, missing finger posts from the public highway, blockages, unsafe structures (stiles, bridges, gates, etc) and aggressive behaviour experienced when using a public right of way. Waymarkers that show the route of a footpath around fields and away from the public road are not a statutory requirement of the County Council and as financial cutbacks are made to budgets, waymarking is often one of the cutbacks a council will make, however it is always worth asking.

This is above only a very brief guidance on public rights of way, for more information and to report an issue please see

www.essexhighways.org/getting-around/public-rights-of-way.aspx

Article written by Saffron James

**EAST ANGLIAN RAILWAY MUSEUM**

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News from the East Anglian Railway Museum....



The sun is shining as I write and we're gearing up for another busy Easter weekend with Thomas and friends...

May and June are busy months as well for us, starting off with the **May Bank Holiday Festival**, 5th & 6th May. This year we've really pushed the boat out with a popular childrens' entertainer, *Steff & Nonsense* performing her special brand of magic on Sunday 5th as well as the rock'n'roll duo, *Double Trouble*. On Monday 6th we'll have circus skills workshops, Go-Karting and the fabulous *New River Dixilanders* playing live. Diesel driver experiences are available both days for just £10 but spaces are limited so come early!

The **Steamy Vintage Encounter** on 18th May is a regular event in our calendar but this year, we have merged with the *Vintage Affair* event, previously held at Hedingham Castle. Bigger and better than ever, expect loads of interesting vintage stalls, classic cars and wartime vehicles as well as vintage hairstyling and makeovers, a real Poplar midwife and evacuee drama re-enactments. *Fox, Wiggle & Sass* will be performing their mix of wartime songs, with attitude at this lovely family event.

The second bank holiday weekend sees our **Transport Extravaganza**, fast becoming a 'must' on the rally circuit, classic cars, vintage motorbikes and modern head-turners will gather at the museum for an annual showcase. We hope to see you soon!

Dates for the diary:

May Bank Holiday Festival – 5th & 6th May

A Steamy Vintage Encounter – 19th May

Escape Rooms - 25th May, 29th May (Half-term), 16th & 30th June.

Transport Extravaganza – 26th & 27th May

Father's Day – 16th June

Catherine Harrison - Marketing Manager - East Anglian Railway Museum



CHARLES DEBENHAM

The man who painted Colchester and Sudbury

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Above: The Beer Tent 2019 oil 35x25 cm



Parish Clerk: Mrs D. Jacob
5 Crocklands
Greenstead Green
Halstead
Essex
CO9 1QY
Tel: 07508787869
parishclerk@wakescolne.org

CO-OPTION FOR THREE VACANCIES ON WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council would like to invite applications from members of the public to fill three vacancies within the Council.

We are a vibrant and democratic Parish Council and after the recent local council elections we have three vacancies on the Parish Council. If you are passionate about your community and would like to contribute in local decisions to improve the Parish do come and join the Parish Council by applying to be a co-opted member of Wakes Colne Parish Council.

If you would like to be involved and contribute to your parish please apply in the first instance for an application form to the following: -

Mrs Diane Jacob, Wakes Colne Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, 5 Crocklands, Greenstead Green, Halstead, Essex, CO9 1QY

e-mail parishclerk@wakescolne.org

Co-option policy available on the Wakes Colne Parish website

Chappel Parish Council

Housing Needs Survey

Please see the full article opposite. As there is a cost to the Parish Council of conducting a survey we will need to see that this is something that interests local residents before considering this any further.

Highways

Chappel Parish Council continues to pursue the request for two Vehicle Activated Signs on the A1124 with the Local Highway Panel. We are waiting to hear from the Local Highway Panel if there are any other options.

We are also in communications with Essex Police on whether Speed Watch Volunteers can be trained to use TRUCAM's in order to assist with reducing the speed of traffic through the village.

Poppy Trail

Chappel Parish Council has successfully secured funding in order to produce a poppy trail through the village. Leaflets and information boards are currently being designed.

Volunteers – Litter Picking & Speed Watch

Would you be willing to give up some time in order to help either of our volunteer groups if so please contact the Clerk so that she can supply you with further information.

Parish Council

Our next meetings will be on Monday 13th May and 10th June in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st May in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

The Agenda and Approved Minutes of all meetings are placed on the Parish Council Noticeboard and also on our Parish Council website www.chappel.org

If you have something to report and you're not sure who to report it to, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to report the problem to the right authorities on your behalf. Please email the Parish Council with as much detail and if possible photographs to parishclerk@chappel.org

**Contact details: Website: www.chappel.org
Chappel Parish Council
<https://www.facebook.com/ChappelPC/>
Chairman: Sue Chamley Email: sue.chamley@chappel.org Tele: 01787 222774
Clerk: Helen Cook Email: parishclerk@chappel.org
Tele: 07583004252**



Affordable Housing for Local People & Identifying Need

So far Chappel Parish Council have only received one response to this article which was in the recent Village Reporter. The housing need survey does have a cost implication and therefore Chappel Parish Council would like to hear from any resident who would be interested in this scheme so the Council can discuss whether to proceed with the survey at this stage. If we don't receive any further responses to this article we will assume that there is no need and will not take this any further forward at this time.

As house prices and rents continue rise, often beyond those wanting to leave home and set up independently, or stay close to family, work or schools, it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to get on the housing ladder or to rent a home at a market rent. In Chappel Parish there is the opportunity to identify whether local people here have a housing need and if so whether an affordable housing scheme could be developed to help address that need.

This type of scheme is available only to small parishes (less than 3000 population) and for local people (or those with a connection to the parish) in perpetuity. Homes are affordable rental or shared ownership. Occasionally (if there is a need and want) one or two open market properties, often bungalows are built, however schemes are only built if there is a proven need. This housing is known as exception site affordable housing and is not large scale development, but small in numbers; typically a scheme ranges between 4 – 8 homes.

The first stage is to identify if there is a local need, if there isn't a need within the parish then nothing more will happen. Chappel Parish Council are in the very early stages of doing this and invited RCCE's (Rural Community Council of Essex) Rural Housing Enabler along to a Parish Council meeting to find out more.

RCCE is an independent charity working across rural Essex and their role is to help the parish, firstly by undertaking a housing needs survey. This will be delivered to every household in the parish and the results (all anonymous, only a report with recommendations goes to the Parish Council) will inform the Parish Council whether there is a need and if so what. The Parish Council will then look at who they could partner with to deliver a scheme.

The housing needs survey is designed to see if there are households in the village or people connected to Chappel who are in need of affordable housing. This is not a survey to justify large scale or open market developments and cannot be used for that.

Properties in these schemes are usually provided by a housing association, either for rent or shared ownership. These properties cannot be sold or transferred into totally private ownership and would remain in perpetuity for people with a strong local connection, either through family or work. At this stage no suitable land has been investigated or identified.

If you are interested please contact the Clerk at parishclerk@chappel.org



HUGH URRY

21st April 1935 to 27th January 2019

Badminton players needed

Earls Colne Badminton Club based at the Earls Colne Recreation Club are looking for some new players to join our friendly club.

We play Sunday evenings 7.00 to 9.00pm and some Tuesdays, we also have a feeder group who play on Mondays.

We play competitive league badminton as well as friendly club nights, the Rec Club also offers a licensed bar and refreshments.



ECRC, Green Farm Meadow, Halstead Road, Earls Colne, Essex CO6 2NG - Tel 01787 223584

If you would like to come and try a "taster session" then call Mike on 07947 556501 for more details.

News from Chappel C of E (VC)

Primary School

I am writing this on the very last day of the Spring Term, the sun is just breaking through the clouds and the weather holds that promise of spring warmth. As usual we have had a fun packed term with our topic "Rainforest Rescue" very much in evidence around the school. The children have enjoyed maths day and science week and our topic culminated in a visit to Colchester Zoo. The children enjoyed talks from the keepers and spotting animals they had learned about during their topic work.

This morning we had our usual Easter service in the church, where we were joined by parents and Revered Richardson. The children prepared interesting information about the Easter Calendar and had written some very thoughtful prayers; their singing was wonderful, even a brand new hymn which they had only just learnt.

We sent two teams of golfers to a tri-golf competition at the Colne Valley golf club and were very proud that Chappel team A came first overall in the competition. They will represent the school in the district final on the 1st May and we are confident they will show their full range of skills.

We return to school on the 23rd April ready for a term of our usual summer events such as the Duck Race on the 19th May and Village Fair on the 29th June. The children will be focussing on the local area and will be out and about around the village looking at what makes Chappel such a wonderful place to live.

On a more sombre note I have written to parents regarding the funding crisis which is effecting many schools and is now impacting on what Chappel school has to offer. I am proud that we are able to offer our children a broad and balanced curriculum, giving the children the opportunity to have a depth of experiences which will last well into their adulthood. The Governors and I have been careful to protect this culture and to ensure that funding is available for all from our dedicated team of teaching assistants. Despite prudent budgeting, we are now at a point where money is extremely tight.

Schools are funded with an amount called the "lump sum"; for schools in Essex this is £150,000; £2,845.11 is then added per child. The total amount of money coming into the Chappel School budget has increased by £4,266 this year. This year's funding settlement has totally failed to keep pace with inflation and the financial demands on the school, for example the cost of staffing has risen by £15,000. This is due to the school having to pay more towards pensions, in line with all businesses. It is also due to a move towards all staff being paid the new minimum wage in April 2020. As you can see we are already having to make a little money go a great deal further. The situation has been compounded by expenses such as oil and electricity which are increasing beyond our control.

Governors met to agree how we would spend our money to ensure that we can offer the best possible education for our children. We have been forced into making some difficult decisions such as cutting the staff training budget and using existing staff to cover those who are off sick. Although we place great value on the highly professional contribution of our teaching assistants, we will be unable to replace our graduate teaching assistant who will be leaving at the end of the academic year.

I am appealing for your help and understanding in the way forward for our school. I would like to compile a list of people willing to volunteer their skills to help our school. If I can make savings in many areas we will be able to continue to offer the high quality education our children deserve in a supportive environment.

Julie Ingram, Head teacher

Richard Fordham Tree Surgeons Ltd



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In June 2015, 9,000 people from many organisations, including our WI, attended a mass lobby organised by the Climate Coalition at Westminster to ask their MPs to take more urgent action on climate change. We are going back again on June 26th and hope you will join us there. All the information is on the Climate Coalition website, “The Time is Now”. Our MP, Sir Bernard Jenkin, has already confirmed he will meet with us so this is a great opportunity to tell him what you would like him to do about climate change.



Striking is not the only action our school children could be taking. In March another WI Climate Ambassador, Jayne Meleschko, Dr Laurel Spooner (who writes a column on climate change for the Gazette) and I took a Climate Coalition stand to the Big Bang event at Essex University, where 1000 year 9 pupils were learning how to Preserve our Planet through Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The teenagers wrote their messages about climate change on green hearts, took selfies, and posted them to their friends on social media. Please read some of their messages below

Students and staff from Stanway and Honywood schools, both in Priti Patel MP's constituency, and students from Ramsey Academy, in James Cleverly MP's constituency, all signed up to meet with their MPs, and it would make a huge difference if we could influence 2 such high profile MPs. Please let me know if you, or your children at these schools, would be interested in taking part in this project.

Jill Bruce, WI Climate Ambassador
Chappel and Wakes Colne WI jbandajs@aol.com

The earth will never be the same
Save the animals we could lose
Respect our world and it will
Respect you back
Save the whole world for our
children and grandchildren
Nature needs us
USE GREEN ENERGY
Save plants - they can give us
medicines
Super heroes don't save the
world- you do!
STOP DEFORESTATION
I want to be able to enjoy the outdoors without worrying about
GLOBAL WARMING
We're losing the animals and environment
Years of climate inaction mean that our futures will have less trees, less
animals and less air - unless we do something
Help the ocean
Don't be a featherhead - save the planet!
Help the animals! After all humans have done, help rebuild the forests
Save our Mother, Mother Earth



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