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The Chappel & Wakes Colne

# Village Reporter

May & June 2020 Issue no.



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



Celebrating 100th  
Issue of the  
Village Reporter.  
See pages 8 & 9 for  
village photos!

Rev. John Richardson  
is to retire at the end  
of May  
Read his final letter  
on page 4

Direct Meats are  
Honoured with the  
Queen's Award for  
Enterprise in  
International Trade  
See page 3

Coronavirus  
Noticeboard  
Information  
See page 15



View of Chappel & Wakes Colne from Oaks Lane. Photo taken by Edward Sexton

The Village Reporter is compiled, edited and delivered by volunteers and is wholly funded through revenue from advertisers. Anyone wishing to submit an article for publication can contact Mandy Sexton on 07729236253 or email: [mandymsexton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mandymsexton@hotmail.co.uk)

Press date for the July & August 2020 issue - Friday 19th June 2020





<b>Local Information</b>		Parish Councils:	
Earls Colne Surgery:	Appointments 01787 222022	Chappel Clerk	Ms. Helen Cook 01206 589095
Bures Surgery	Dispensary 01787 223408	Chappel Website	www.chappel.org
	Appointments 01787 227529	Chappel Chairperson	Cllr. Sue Chamley sue.chamley@chappel.org
Borough Councillor	Peter Chillingworth 01206 240230	Wakes Colne Clerk	Ms. Diane Jacob 07508787869
County Councillor	Anne Brown 01206 321241	Wakes Colne Chairperson	Cllr. Stephen Scrase
Police Colchester Station	01245 491491 (non emerg. 101 emerg. 999)	Wakes Colne Website	www.wakescolne.org
Chappel C of E School	Head Teacher Julie Ingram 01787 222296	Dog Training	Val Sayer 01206 240328
Churches:		East Anglian Railway Museum	Peter Martin/Mike Stanbury 01206 242524
Chappel & Wakes Colne		Royal British Legion (Ladies)	Val Sayer 01206 240328
C of E	Rev. John Richardson 01206 211481	Women's Institute	Neris Roberts 01787 223855
Chappel U R C	Rev. Kenneth N Forbes 01206 547920	Village Hall	Mandy Sexton 07729236253
Wakes Colne Post Office	01787 222449	Village Hall Bookings Clerk	Christine Underwood 0794 9510523
National Rail Enquiries	03457 4849 50	Citizens Advice Bureau	0344 477 0808
		Childline	0800 1111
		Samaritans	0845 790 9090
		Rivers/Floodline	0300 2000 100

## CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE VILLAGE FETE 2020



It is with great sadness Linda, Sue together with Miss Ingram have agreed to cancel the 2020 Fete. This was to be our 10th year of staging the Fete and were looking forward to seeing all who have supported us over the years.

Never fear - with your help we will be back next year and what a celebration we will have.

Love Linda and Sue xx

## VILLAGE REPORTER WEBSITE

If you are interested in being added to the Village Reporter mailing list, please sign up on the website. On the website you can also 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**

## BRITISH LEGION

At the moment we are not meeting, but will do again once it is safe to do so. If you would like to be involved with the local British Legion group, please contact Val Sayer for further information on 01206 240328

## CELEBRATING 100th Issue!!!

Well, this is the 100th issue of the Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Reporter magazine. We are so blessed to have such close and caring villagers who not only want to share their news with others through the magazine but with the recent happenings in the world, have become even closer to each other, be it chatting at the post office, on our daily exercise routes, helping our neighbours or just whenever we cross paths.

Thank you to all those that make the magazine a reality including the advertisers, the contributors, the deliverers and you, the readers. Thank you also to the dedicated editors of the present and past including Noel Graham, Val Sayer, Anthea Alexandra, Ian and Sue Stratford.

On Page 8 and 9 of this issue you will see a variety of photographs taken from past events and buildings in Chappel and Wakes Colne. We thought they would stir memories and encourage more conversations between us all. Many of the photographs were given to me by Ian and Sue Stratford's daughter Amabel Laurie. Ian was a keen local historian, who not only collected photographs, newspaper articles and writings about the villages but he meticulously investigated who, when and where his collection originated from. In future issues of the magazine we will publish some more of Ian's photos and findings.

Happy 100th Issue Village Reporter, may this issue celebrate the unity of our villages, Chappel and Wakes Colne.

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## CORONAVIRUS NOTICEBOARD

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## CORONAVIRUS STAY AT HOME SAVE LIVES

Anyone can spread Coronavirus.

The only reasons to leave home are:

- ✓ To shop for basic necessities or pick up medicine
- ✓ To travel to work when you absolutely cannot work from home
- ✓ To exercise once a day, alone or with members of your household
- ✗ Do not meet others, even friends or family



## We need YOUR help during the COVID-19 Virus Outbreak!

Chappel Parish Council and Wakes Colne Parish Council would like to facilitate a task force of healthy volunteers willing to undertake small tasks including shopping, picking up prescriptions, posting a letter etc for people in their community that have to self-isolate.

We know that many of you have already offered your help to your neighbours and community which we are very grateful for. Once we have a list of volunteers we plan to letter drop contact details to all residents so that even those that are not on social media can be covered and will therefore have a way of contacting the community if they need assistance.

If you can help please contact us on

Chappel Residents: 01206 589095 or by email: [parishclerk@chappel.org](mailto:parishclerk@chappel.org)

Wakes Colne Residents: 07508 787869 or by email: [parishclerk@wakescolne.org](mailto:parishclerk@wakescolne.org)

## Temporary changes to your recycling and rubbish collection

## STAY HOME PROTECT THE NHS SAVE LIVES

## YOUR COLLECTION DAY REMAINS THE SAME

Households on a Green Week, week commencing 13 April, will have their rubbish and recycling collected as follows:

Weeks starting	What you can put out for collections on these weeks
13 April 11 May 8 June	Food Waste Paper, card and plastic (max total of 6 clear bags)
20 April 18 May 15 June	Food Waste Household rubbish – maximum of 4 x 60 litre black bags OR 1 x black wheelie bin + 1 x 60 litre black bag
27 April 25 May 22 June	Food waste
4 May 1 June 29 June	Food waste 1 x green box of cans 1 x green box of glass Household rubbish – maximum of: 4 x 60 litre black bags OR 1 x black wheelie bin + 1 x 60 litre black bag

There are no changes to collection days on Bank Holidays. Garden waste and textiles collections are suspended until further notice.

Please place your recycling and rubbish on your property boundary by 7am on your normal collection day. Please ensure bags are securely tied and bin lids are shut.

For more information about what can and can't go in your recycling and rubbish, check your 2020/21 recycling calendar or visit [www.colchester.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/recycling)

If you're self-isolating, either as a precaution or because you have coronavirus (COVID-19) please follow these four simple steps to reduce the spread of the virus:

- Place all personal waste such as used tissues and disposable cleaning cloths, securely in a plastic bag or bin liner
- Store these bags separately to other waste for at least 72 hours
- After 72 hours, this double bagged rubbish can be put in your general rubbish as normal
- Place this plastic bag inside another plastic bag and tie securely

For more info visit [www.colchester.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/coronavirus)

## G & J Barron Farms

G & J Barron Farms in Pattocks Farm, Chappel have launched a mobile shop for residents of nearby villages.

To find out more about G & J Barron Farms or to place and order, visit [facebook.com/GJBarronFarms](https://www.facebook.com/GJBarronFarms).



**Beacon House, Colchester**  
If you would like to donate food, toiletries, clothing etc to this wonderful Charity, but can't get your contributions to them and would still like to donate, please send whatever you can afford to:  
Beacon House Ministries  
Account No 241 811 62Sort Code: 23-05-80  
Those who use Beacon House often find it's the only place to get food, clothing etc and Beacon House is now desperate for money to keep going.





## Wakes Colne Parish Council

[www.e-voice.org.uk/wakescolne/](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/wakescolne/)

### YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WORKING FOR YOUR PARISH

#### Wakes Colne Parish Council – Chairman's personal Comments

As you may be aware the activities of the Parish Council, like many other activities have been curtailed due to self-isolation and Lock down legislation by the Government. However, we were quick to recognise that as a Council we needed to react swiftly and immediately and organised a leaflet drop to about eighty per cent of our Parish households covering an offer of help to those who required some assistance, such as collection of prescriptions and shopping, or just needed a friendly chat. We also asked for volunteers to assist which drew an immediate response from residents and Councillors. I sincerely thank those that are giving their time to help fellow Parishioners. The take up of requests has not been significant but, nevertheless, we are here to help if all else fails, although I appreciate that overall as a Village we get on well together and will help our neighbours in a crises.

The Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall was cancelled for April but the important parts of Parish business was undertaken by email, including one planning matter and the acceptance from Essex County Council of a licence for the location of each Bus Shelter [previously never concluded] located on the A1124. We also took the necessary action on financial matters to ensure our contractors and Parish Clerk support be settled and in addition the approval for printing the Wakes Colne Parish Annual report to be delivered to each household. The Council gave delegated powers to the Parish Clerk during the Conanavirus closedown to enable work of the Council to fulfil its responsibilities to residents. As you may have guessed the Wakes Colne Annual Parish Assembly normally held in May will be cancelled until next year, the normal Parish Council Meetings will also not take place until further notice although Council business will still survive to keep the wheels turning.

In relation to the lack of re-cycling of household waste following Colchester Council suspension of service an amended service has been announced, I found the leaflet issued by the Council rather confusing and I have published a detailed calendar on the Parish web site to assist residents' actions on the normal collection day.

Finally, a correction from the last issue of the Village Reporter, the matter relating to the inception of the Chappel & Wakes Colne Station Railway Adopters Group was inadvertently published within my Parish report. The Adopters Group is quite separate from the Wakes Colne Parish Council, although I am the founder of the group on behalf of Essex & South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership.

**Stephen Scrase**



## Richard Fordham

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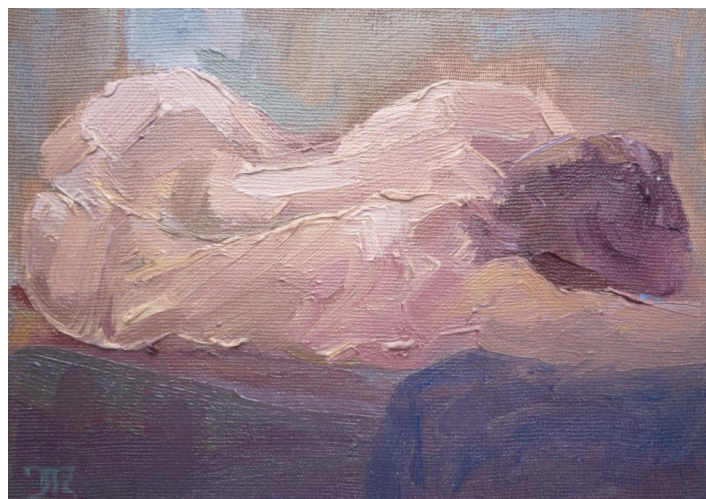
##### THREE ARTISTS:

MARY GRIFFITHS TOM DEAKINS DELIA TOURNAY-GODFREY  
(Below by artist Delia Tournay-Godfrey: 'Back I' oil 13x18cm)

##### THE EXHIBITION IS ALSO ON-LINE

<http://www.chappellgalleries.co.uk/exhibitions-11/spring-2020/spring-2020.htm>

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## direct meats

Direct Meats recognised with  
Queen's Award for Enterprise in  
International Trade



Essex-based premium meat supplier Direct Meats has been honoured with the Queen's Award for Enterprise in International Trade.

The business was founded in Chappel, Essex in 1995 as an innovative butcher providing a bespoke service - that of a 'larder chef' supplier serving some of the finest restaurants, hotels and eateries in the UK. A quarter of a century later, it is still a family-run business that that employs 120 full time staff, delivers an average of 2,500 orders per week as well as exports to 19 countries around the world.

Direct Meats managing director Martin Blackwell said: "To be awarded the Queen's Award is testament to our hard-working staff and the farmer/producer brands we work with, who allow us to export their products. We are classed as a small and medium-sized enterprise and to receive an award with global standing recognises our innovative movement into an incredibly challenging global market.

"It also means a lot as a representative of small British farmers who believe in sustainable, traditional methods."

Blackwell explained the process in applying for the Queen's award. "It took 20 years of building the infrastructure and getting the business in a position to appeal to a global market where we began exporting in 2015. The process in applying for the award itself has taken two years where we had to prove excellence in several areas.

"First of all, showing growth in the exports market was a vital factor. Since 2015, we have opened up business with 19 countries, the latest being Canada. We showed a unique and innovative side to how we do things. We aren't aware of other export companies like ours who train butchers in other countries, showing care towards not only our own team but our customers too. This puts British business at the forefront because the staff we sell our product too know how to create unique dishes and get the very best out of the product we supply."

Blackwell said that proving sustainability was also vital to winning the Queen's Award.

"Another key part of obtaining the award was proving how we promote sustainable farming methods, minimising negative environmental impact. Working with small-scale farmers who farm in traditional ways, and not on large, high-intensity farms, is vital to our brand and is important in selling our product."

As well as its successful international presence, Blackwell said the business was growing locally as well. "Thanks to the growth and success of our business, we have been able to do more work in our local area. We give training and job opportunities to young people with autism, working closely with schools in and around Colchester. We also do a lot of work with local homeless shelters, giving training opportunities as well as supplies."

Direct Meats will be allowed to promote the Queen's Award via a kitemark on its packaging and advertising materials.

Blackwell said this will be massively positive for Direct Meats.

"The award gives credibility to the business as a brand and this will help build our profile on a global stage," he said. "We hope this will open more doors in existing as well as new markets. It's a recognised standard on a global scale and when approaching new customers, we can prove an immediate high-standard, high-quality product and service recognised at a top level."



[www.directmeats-foodstore.co.uk](http://www.directmeats-foodstore.co.uk)

Direct Meats are committed to ensuring a regular food supply to the public with our delicious, high quality products. In the situation we are facing, our online food store has been a huge success, especially for those isolating and unable to go out.

Not only do we sell a fantastic quality meat, we also have available a range of dry store essentials as well as a delicious fruit and veg box. Head to our website to place your order!

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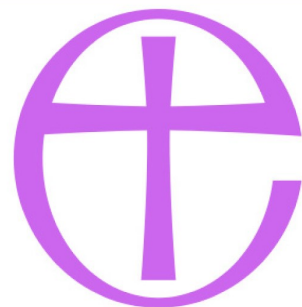
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Secretary: Richard Harris  
Tel. 01787 222722

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,

As my retirement from the parish takes effect from the 31st May this will be my final letter in the Village Reporter. So I shall take this opportunity to express a general thanks to so many people who over the years have helped to foster the life of our churches and the life of the churches in the community. Space does not allow me to mention individuals by name, and I am afraid of missing out those deserving of thanks. Suffice to say that our two churches have been able to carry on through the hard work and selfless dedication of so many people.

In the wider community I would like to thank in our school the head teachers with whom I have worked over the past thirty years: Mr Richard Gregory, Mrs Tracy McKenzie- Bell, and of course Miss Julie Ingram our present head teacher. It has also been a pleasure to have had links with our local United Reformed Church and to enjoy shared acts of worship there. Our church magazine under the care of Sheila and Norwood Simpson, and more recently the Village Reporter led by Mandy Sexton, have both been really useful ways of sharing church news and to them I say a big thank you.

As far as we know, the present vicar of Earls Colne, the Rev. Mark Payne, will assume responsibility for the pastoral care of the parish of Wakes Colne and Chappel. I hope more information about Sunday services etc. will be known in due course. At the moment, due to the corona virus, everything is on hold. I am sure you will want to give him your full support when he does join you as your priest.

To spend 30 years in a parish nowadays is unusual. But for me I have always felt that, building on the work of my much-loved predecessor Rev. Norman Cotgrove, it has been the right thing to do. Over the course of those years (which seem to have flown by) my wife Jane and I have been richly blessed in making so many friends and also to have worshipped in two such beautiful churches. Meanwhile, I leave you with my prayers and best wishes for the future and urge you to give your support to your village churches to keep them up and running for future generations to enjoy.

With best wishes,

Rev. John Richardson.

### From the Registers

Funerals  
Mr John Leftley 21st February 2020  
Mr Aad van der Voort 24th March 2020

### Church services

*These will be announced in due course but  
at the moment there are no church services  
and we have been instructed to keep our  
churches locked for the time being.*

To mark Reverend John Richardson's forthcoming retirement at the end of May 2020, after completing 30 years as Rector of our churches at St Barnabas Chappel and All Saints Wakes Colne, Chris Eaton has kindly made arrangements at the Village Stores and Post Office to receive donations towards a gift for Reverend John and Mrs Jane Richardson from all in the parish who may wish to contribute.

Richard Harris

## Chappel Parish Council



### Thank You

Chappel Parish Council is currently holding a list of volunteers who are able to help residents of Chappel who are in self-isolation due to COVID-19. Whether this be collecting prescription or delivering essential shopping.

Chappel Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have put their names forward, we really do appreciate you volunteering in order to help your community.

### Play Area

The Play Area is currently closed due to COVID-19.

### Scam – COVID-19

Chappel Parish Council are aware of many scams that are circulating at the present time and would ask residents to be cautious and carry out due diligence with emails, links, phone calls and unsolicited doorstep calls.

### Blocked Drains

Please can we ask residents to think about what they are putting down into the drains. We have had an incident in Chappel of a blocked drains and when assessed by Anglian Water it was due to wet wipes.

### School Footpath

Chappel Parish Council have appointed a contractor to carry out works of installing an all-weather footpath at the back of the school gates. This will be completed in due course.

### Flooding on Oak Road

Essex Highways have completed the work on Oak Road to alleviate the flooding issues. Chappel Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Anne Brown for assisting the Parish Council in chasing up the required works.

### Parish Council

Our next meetings were due to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> June in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. It is likely that these meetings will be conducted by email and kept to the bare minimum, however, a decision will be placed on the Parish Council's website a week before each meeting is due to take place.

The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting will not take place this year.

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](http://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](mailto:parishclerk@chappel.org)

Contact details: Website: [www.chappel.org](http://www.chappel.org)  
Chappel Parish Council  
<https://www.facebook.com/ChappelIPC/>  
Chairman: Sue Chamley Email: [sue.chamley@chappel.org](mailto:sue.chamley@chappel.org)  
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Nature notes

I managed one short trip over to Abberton in early March before the lockdown started, mainly in hope of seeing a first Swallow. There had been one reported, but I couldn't find it. Ducks were few, the big wintering flocks now dispersed, although some remained, including 3 Long-Tailed Ducks, surprisingly easy to find in the water off the visitors' centre as they weren't diving. More distant was a Black-Necked Grebe, half-way to changing into its gaudy summer plumage.



Then crash. Lockdown: essential travel only. No trips over to Fingringhoe to hear the Nightingales, always among the first of the arrivals. Confined to the garden and the valley, and they've both had a lot to offer.

Butterflies have been brilliant. Over the first three warm weeks of April I've seen most of what one might expect in this region. The only one I think I should have seen by now is Holly Blue. First out and plentiful have been Peacocks. Several have been in the garden, which has also given me singles of Small Tortoiseshell (very welcome as it's a rare butterfly these days), Painted Lady, Comma and Speckled Wood. Then several Brimstone and since mid-April a good number of Orange Tips. The verges along Oak Road have many Green-veined White, and lots of Small White also. All in all, 9 species, many numerous, and a pretty good representation of what one might get anywhere in the country at this time of the year.

Birds have been pretty good to. The feeders are less frenzied now, the big groups of Goldfinches and Green Finches have gone. There are a few of these left, along with Blue and Great Tits and Chaffinches, but the numbers are well down on February. There is still a daily Great Spotted Woodpecker, whose routing is a morning visit, and then a pair of Stock Doves whose routine is a late afternoon visit.

The first House Martins came back to the house on 11<sup>th</sup> April, about a week earlier than last year. A chattering in the sky, and there they were,

two of them swooping around the roof, and a couple more the next day. On that same day I saw my first Swallow in the valley, although a friend said they were around a few days earlier. Normally the House Martins arrive then disappear for a couple of weeks, as if doing a reconnaissance, but this time they have come and stayed.

We always get a Song Thrush in the garden in early spring, and on cue two have been hunting in the grass every morning. A Sparrowhawk twists and turns through the shrubs most days, and above there are Buzzards, usually two but occasionally three every day. The trees and hedges have Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps.

There's always the one that got away problem. I'd been watching Buzzards close overhead while I planted the potatoes one late March morning, and an hour later I looked for them again and instead there was a raptor high up. Of course, no binoculars. This one was whiter, looked more pointed, and was flying north east as if on a deliberate journey. It did not look like a Buzzard. I suspect it was an Osprey. With more breeding pairs throughout the country, it would not be a great surprise to see one over the valley during their migration. They are regular if brief visitors to Essex; two years ago, in late August I saw one at both Fingringhoe and Abberton on the same afternoon.

Over The Reporter's 16 years / 100 issues, what's changed? We've gained a couple of species, notably Little Egret and Buzzard, and an occasional Red Kite. Main loss, I think, has been Spotted Flycatcher: in late summer we always had a few making a brief stop in the garden on their way south, but not for 10 years now. Apart from that, the loss has been not species, but numbers. There are still Linnets, Yellowhammers, Starlings, but not in the numbers of 15 years ago. Nuthatch too is largely absent, so seeing one near the house a couple of years ago was a wow moment.

Back to today. The first cuckoo? Yes, just in time for this piece. One was calling in the railway embankment area near the Pope's Lane bridge late afternoon on 19<sup>th</sup> April.  
**Tony Witcher**



Memories of the Last War 3

After the excitement of the Thunderbolt crash in my last article, I return to the measures my family adopted to protect ourselves in the event of an air raid. Fairly early in the war we were issued with a 'Morrison shelter'. This was a steel table that we installed in the middle of the kitchen, and under which I slept. The theory being, if the house was destroyed, those beneath would be 'safe' in a little cell under the rubble. If there had been an air raid warning siren announcing an imminent raid, Mum and Dad would have joined me under the table!

However, without knowing what lay ahead, Dad began constructing a shelter for us all in an outbuilding that was originally built as a wash house, by casting walls with concrete, re-enforced with any old steel posts, rods and wire he could find. Being a busy farmer and Home Guard, this was never finished so, as a temporary measure for use when a raid might be imminent, he created a shelter in a ditch using large bales of straw open to the stars. I remember in the summer of 1944, lying snug in a blanket, watching 'doodlebugs' fly over on their way to London from the Netherlands. These were V-1s, pilot-less flying bombs driven by pulse jets that made a weird noise. They were visible as they flew over fairly low looking like a black cross in the sky against the stars and with a pulsing tail flame. If the noise suddenly stopped, they crashed and exploded. We held our breath as they went over.

In the later stages of the war, the allies launched daylight bombing raids deep into Germany, mainly with American 4-engined B17 'Flying Fortresses' and Liberators. These came from the numerous air bases throughout East Anglia and Lincolnshire. The sky seemed full as masses of aircraft passed over us to assemble over the coast for their journey east. One morning, we heard a massive explosion somewhere towards the village and word soon got around that a bomber with a full load of bombs had crashed and exploded. I was later to find out that Richard Scillitoe, now living Station Road, was at school in Earls Colne that morning and he saw the crippled bomber on fire returning from the coast with parachutes falling in the distance. The plane turned, losing height, and one more parachute came down near the Fox and Pheasant before skimming the viaduct and crashing in what is now Timberlands Farm, off Spring Gardens Road.

Following a crash, the airforce would seal off the field, detonate unexploded bombs and ammunition, recover the human remains and take the wreckage away. Inevitably, there were many small fragments left behind. Once this operation was complete, the boys of the village would collect some as souvenirs. It seems strange to imagine now, but as a 6 year-old who roamed the countryside alone when not in school, I collected several interesting pieces.

It was only in the mid-90s that I learnt the full story of this event. I was approached by an amateur historian who had researched the crash, because the pilot of the B17 that crashed in Chappel, a Major Smith from Seattle, was returning to this country for a reunion, the first time since the war. We finally learnt what happened that day. Major Smith was piloting the lead bomber in his Group and as they assembled approaching the coast, a vary

pistol was fired to set the bombers off for Germany. However, the thing exploded in the cabin starting a serious fire. Major Smith ordered the crew to bail-out. He was badly burned in the explosion, but with some of the crew managed to get out. However, it seems 3 of the crew, including the co-pilot did not get out; he never knew exactly why. He parachuted into a field near Peldon where land girls were working. Because of his injuries, they carried him to a road on a gate, where an ambulance could pick him up. The plane, presumably with the co-pilot still at the controls, turning back, gradually losing height, before finally crashing by the stream at what is now Timberlands Farm. It was arable land then, before becoming part of an orchard. The explosion carried most of the wreckage across the stream and into the western side of the same field where the Thunderbolt had earlier crashed.

The historian was pleased I had collected pieces of the plane; one, a small cylinder, was identified as the electric motor which would have powered the camera used to record the results of the bombing raid. We mounted this on a small plaque and presented it to Major Smith during a small gathering on our lawn at Oak Farm. Also present were two of the land girls who rescued him, the historian and Richard Scillitoe. We went together to the site of the crash; it was a lovely warm, quiet summer afternoon, but a very emotional moment for Major Smith and for all of us.

I took the photo of Richard Scillitoe, Major Smith and the historian, whose name I believe might be McLaughlin. He has the plaque under his arm.



Peter Chillingworth

CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL

IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

CONTACTS

Chairman: Mandy Sexton 07729236253 mandymsexton@hotmail.co.uk  
Bookings: Christine Underwood 07983 242517 underwood1@live.co.uk  
web-site: www.essexinfo.net/chappel-and-wakes-colne-village-hall

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No to North Essex Garden Communities

We are still waiting for the Inspector's report about the north Essex garden communities following the hearings in January. Contact Andrew Coy by email [wac@simplybanqueting.com](mailto:wac@simplybanqueting.com) if you would like to spread the message and assist CAUSE. or go to our website for more detailed information. [cause@cause4livingessex.com](mailto:cause@cause4livingessex.com).







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

**SECRETARY:** Anthony R Percival  
Peace Villa, Colchester Road, Chappel, Colchester,  
Essex CO6 2DE. Tel (01206) 240442  
E-mail: arpchapel@btinternet.com  
**TREASURER:** Valerie Dent  
Watch House Cottage, Station Road, Wakes Colne,  
Colchester, Essex CO6 2DJ. Tel: 01787 220147  
E-mail: valeriedent1947@gmail.com  
**Worship each Sunday at 6.30 pm**  
Holy Communion is included in the service on the  
second Sunday of the month  
Other services and meetings as arranged and  
publicised

## The Minister writes . . .

Generally I write this little piece about three weeks before the date of publication, and often I am able to write about something appropriate for the season of the year – Christmas, Easter, Spring, Harvest, Winter and so on.

Currently, as I write this on Good Friday in the second week of April, the country is in the midst of lockdown; we are all effectively 'grounded' in order to minimise the spread of coronavirus and thus relieve pressure on the National Health Service. Who knows what the situation will be like when you read this? Perhaps the restrictions will have eased and things will be gradually returning to normal. Or (more likely, I think) perhaps we will still be living in isolation and having to keep our distance when we go out.

For most of us this is very inconvenient, and may be a cause of great anxiety, but we do bear in mind that for some it is a matter of life and death; that throughout the country there are families mourning the loss of loved ones; and that thousands of dedicated people in the NHS and in caring and service professions are putting themselves at risk every day in order to keep the rest of us safe and healthy.

The Christian story of Easter contains two themes which are relevant for us all, especially today. The first is loss and lament. We remember Jesus' words from the cross, the words of the Psalm: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' and we are reminded that faith is not a protection against suffering; that we are allowed to be fearful, to lament our losses and to lean on our faith to help us endure.

The second theme is life and hope. The Easter story convinces us that life is stronger than death, and that through the darkest of times the light of hope always shines.

We may not have been able to celebrate Easter in the usual way this year, but actually a more subdued, reflective celebration might also be a more meaningful one, as we both lament the unhappy state of the world and offer prayers of hope and confidence for a brighter future.

Ken

## From the Psalms . . .

God is our Refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

## Prayers from the joint Moderators of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church

As so much is re-shaped by Coronavirus Covid 19, let us pray with: people left unwell, beckoned by death or bereaved.

people providing professional health care and advice, looking after loved ones at home or working to create treatments and cures.

people shaping the response of nations and neighbourhoods, of commerce and industry, of service and voluntary organisations and of communities of faith.

people who are anxious or afraid, alone or isolated.

Living, loving God, we praise you, and through times of peril we lean into you, for in Jesus Christ You have trodden paths as difficult as ours, revealing there a love that nothing defeats, a love that bears us through.

## CORONAVIRUS – Covid 19

### ALL SUNDAY SERVICES and MEETINGS ARE SUSPENDED until further notice

When the government allows churches to re-open for SUNDAY SERVICES a NOTICE BOARD will be placed outside the Chapel on Sundays notifying all that worship will take place. Also, similarly, a Notice will be displayed when **WEDNESDAY COFFEE & CHAT** meetings resume.



Even as we strive to behave responsibly, and to care reliably, so we feel after you that in these uncertain times we might trust you are with us, our refuge and strength, and our faith, hope and love might be renewed, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

May/June 2020

## Theft of tools



The theft of tools is not only 'theft of those tools'; it is also the damage the thief causes in getting to them. This can prevent you from carrying out an intended task(s), and to a trader it is your livelihood, a necessity to carry out your work.

Recent Direct Line Insurance statistics relation to tool thefts state:

- £83 million stolen England and Wales since 2017 mainly from Tradesmen
- Only 3% recovered
- 217,000 tools
- 28% from vehicles
- 20% Private Residences
- 10% work sites & businesses

Invariably tools are kept in vehicles, sheds, garages and other outbuildings, all with a level of apparent vulnerability that a thief will seek to exploit.

There are similarities in security advice for both sheds, outbuildings and vans:

- Is there a more secure location with greater protection where your tools can safely be stored?
  - With regards to where your sheds, outbuildings and vans are positioned, where possible each wants to be where it can be seen and under lighting.
  - Shed windows, as with the rear windows of a van, need to be such that the contents cannot be seen through and each can have a weld mesh grille over the inside to deter access. \*
  - Consider supplementing the existing locks with accreditation body tested products to the risk commensurate standard to protect your property i.e. Secured by Design or Sold Secure (gold or diamond standard). When fitting such consider the strength what you are fitting it to and whether that too needs to be enhanced. \*\*
  - Consider further security within such as strong boxes or in sheds and outbuildings ground anchors to lock the item by chain to. \*\*
  - Consider an alarm, there are those out there that notify you on your Smart Device of an intrusion and allow you to view the cause of the activation. \*
  - Property marking and asset recording will make your tools harder for the criminal to dispose of and so less desirable. Methods could be visibly marking i.e. engraving, die stamping, painting an awful colour, indelible ink or paint marker and/or a forensic marker with labelling to show that it is marked also asset recording of its serial number and description on a secure accreditation body approved database. \*
- There are fogging and intruder tagging sprays available that when activated fill the van or shed with a fog that you cannot see the hand in front of your face, or the tagging spray that coats the intruder with a unique UV visible spray.
- Products that are fit for purpose can found by looking for the "Secured by Design" or "Sold Secure" logos, or on their websites <http://www.securedbydesign.com/> or <http://www.soldsecure.com/>. (\*SBD or both\*\*) For further crime prevention advice see [www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/](http://www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/) or [www.thecrimepreventionwebsite.com](http://www.thecrimepreventionwebsite.com)

**Stephen Armson-Smith 74324, Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor & Designing Out Crime Officer**  
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**Telephone 101 ex. 407110, Mobile 07525 409 720**

## Bee Lines



Well, who would have thought it?. Just two months after my last report and the world seems to have changed forever. The Reporter is 100 issues young and we have all been confined to barracks for a month or so. What can I possibly say which would be relevant to the current situation?. My guess is not a lot, but here goes anyway. Lets start with the bees. The long wet winter certainly took its toll, with another two hives lost to the climatic conditions, with maybe an element of naive beekeeping thrown in. As a result, I am down to just the single hive. However, plans are afoot to increase the numbers, but it seems likely that any honey crop this summer will be an unexpected bonus. More will follow in future bulletins. As to our lockdown, we are trying to remain as positive as we can. The weather, fortunately, has been glorious so far. It is certainly a bonus, when he pub is out of bounds, to be able to sit in the garden with a cold glass of white wine and watch the sun set over the boundary hedge. Many of us are blessed to have a garden to relax in, and my thoughts go out to those in towns and cities who do not have that luxury.

We are trying to stay fit. Every day we take a walk along the footpaths within our parish. We rarely see anyone else, although we can tell the paths are used by others, as evidenced by the deposits left behind by various dogs. We are trying to eat in a healthy manner as well, with meat being strictly rationed to twice a week. Its amazing how quickly we have adapted to the new regime. Technology also has its place. Although we are unable to meet with friends locally, paradoxically we have seen more of our remote friends through the wonders of the internet, with regular conference video sessions arranged with friends and relatives. When things return to normal, I hope these new practices will be maintained.

But it is in the garden that we take most pleasure. My grass has had more attention in the last three weeks than it has in the last three years, and it is looking all the better for it. The other area that has given the most pleasure is my greenhouse. Have you ever walked into a greenhouse in the mid morning?. The sun has been up for a few hours, but is not yet strong enough to warm the air outside. I slide back the doors and am hit by a blast of slightly warmer, much more humid air; but the real difference is the smell.

A greenhouse smells of warm damp air, plants and damp earth. In reality, it is the smell of decay, but I always think of it as the smell of new life. Every time I enter my greenhouse in the morning I am immediately whisked back to over sixty years ago, where I, as a small child, am in a large greenhouse in the West Country, in the company of my grandfather.

Now grandfather was a typical Edwardian working man. You know the type. Lloyd George through and through, none of this Jeremy Thorpe rubbish. He had been a professional gardener, as had his father before him, but had been required to work in industry during Word War 1. He only returned to full time gardening after he retired, but it had been his hobby all of his life. No one ever left his house after a visit without taking a cabbage, or a few leeks, or eggs from the bantams he kept at the bottom of the garden. And the point is, on a spring morning, his greenhouse smelled exactly like mine.

Today, I wonder what my grandfather would have made of the current crisis. I hope he would have taken it in his stride. After all, his life saw five monarchs, two world wars, Spanish flu and numerous outbreaks of cholera, diphtheria, typhoid and tuberculosis, to name but a few. I try to take strength from the thought that my ancestors certainly had it worse than I have.

Finally, it would seem that the current crisis has increased the demand for honey. Sales are through the roof. I suppose it is a matter of personal opinion as to whether honey is an effective cure for viral infections, but it can certainly do little harm. I will leave you with a (Scottish) friends cold cure recipe. I am unable to write in dialect, but imagine a soft Scots brogue. This is how it goes.

Take two tumblers and set them on your draining board. To the first tumbler, fill it three quarters full with whisky, and set it to one side. Turning to the second tumbler, squeeze half a lemon, and grate the zest into the tumbler. Add a spoonful of honey, along with a pinch of cinnamon, one of nutmeg, and one of ginger. A clove of garlic and a sprig of mint are added, before he tumbler is filled with boiling water. Stir the mixture, and leave it to mash for precisely three and a half minutes. You then take the second tumbler, raise it to your lips and pour it down the sink. Then drink the whisky.

Och Aye the Noo, and here's to the next 100 editions of the Village Reporter.

**your Bee Correspondent, The Old Drone**



## CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE WOMENS INSTITUTE

Before the nightmare began, back in February, we had a visit from Dr. Paul Byrne whose hobby is researching the history of the Garrison Hospital. Dr. Byrne said how hard it had been to obtain information on this historical building, however the facts that he had uncovered proved to be fascinating.

The story begins with a condition called Soldiers Heart which we now know as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. A hospital was built during the first world war in Hampstead, to treat patients who they thought had heart problems. This soon became too small so in 1896 it was decided to build another in Colchester as there were already barracks in the town so the new hospital, was, in effect, the country's first heart hospital.

Dr. Byrne illustrated his talk showing plans of the original barrack buildings through the years up to the present layout of the new garrison area.

The first barracks in Colchester were called the Artillery Barracks and were used in the Napoleonic Wars. Through the years these were developed and vastly improved, the famous Florence Nightingale insisted that hygiene standards were the most important factor for welfare and that is why the Garrison Hospital was built to her design. Dr. Byrne said that more soldiers died from disease than were killed on the battle field in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The hospital began closing down in 1973 and finally closed in 1977 amidst huge opposition and petitions to Parliament.

As we have been unable to meet in our usual way there are no meetings to report on, however, being ultra resourceful, we have been having virtual meetings which has been fun and nice to catch up with one another.

As this is a special edition of the Reporter I thought it would be nice to say how our WI came into existence. It was way back in 1948 on February the 24<sup>th</sup> to be exact, when the first meeting took place in the village hall – suggestions for a programme included slipper making, the Health Act, knitted gloves and a present not costing more than 2s/6d (12 and half pence in present currency) – this must be without spending coupons! Winter meetings were held in the afternoons at 2.30 and the annual subscription was 2/6d which must have seemed a lot in those days. In 1949 a drama group was formed and the first play was performed in the garden of Bridgewick Hall next to Chappel Church. In those days there were more than fifty members.

In December 1948 the following is an extract from the committee minutes which seem very amusing in this day and age: "A letter was read from Baldwin Chemical Industries suggesting that women generally did not appear to know enough about washing and dyeing, particularly woollens. The writer proposed that a Mrs Stringer, who was a capable lecturer and demonstrator, should come and instruct us in these matters, without particular reference to the specific medium sold by the firm. Members thought it might be suitable to invite her to one of our meetings.

Mrs Stringer was the speaker in May 1949 – Mrs Stringer then gave her demonstration and proceeded to wash the secretary's cardigan which apparently needed it. She then gave us some useful hints as to washing and dyeing, and presented us with samples of soap less cleansers made by her firm."

Next time we will be delving into the archives for some more amusing minutes and snippets from the past – my thanks to our secretary for her help.

Dorothyb.crees@googlemail.com

**Would you like to hear Darren Tansley, Essex Wildlife Trust, speak on the release of beavers at Finchingfield? Email Jill on jbandajs@aol.com and I'll send you the link to join us on Zoom from 7.30pm for 8pm, Wednesday 20th May. All welcome. Adults are asked for a nominal £2 donation, under 18s are free.**



## Need some help around the house or garden?

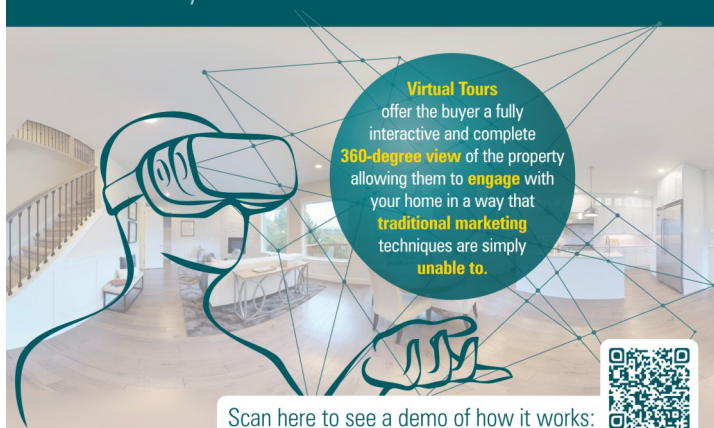
From regular gardening to that indoor job you never get around to, I could be what you're looking for. With skills in house and garden maintenance, I'll mow, prune, weed, plant, paint, repair, install, adjust, fix, clean, replace...

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## Railway Museum Closes its doors...



Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the East Anglian Railway Museum has temporarily closed to the general public and a packed season of steam and diesel events including grand old locomotives in action, classic cars, 1940s Vintage Encounters, Mid-Summer Murders, Steampunks and other family events have all been put on hold for the time being. The popular wedding hires side of the museum has also taken a massive hit as couples decide to put off tying the knot for another year.

The biggest event of the year at Chappel Station is the annual Summer Beer Festival, co-hosted by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) the event attracts up to 5,000 real ale fans over five days in September and, although organisers remain optimistic and cautious preparations are continuing, a definite decision as to whether this event will go ahead, albeit on a smaller scale, will be made on 1<sup>st</sup> July.



The museum has enjoyed a big rise in event visitor numbers in recent years and next year, 2021, marks 50 years since steam trains started running again

at Chappel; plans for another great year were already being discussed when the crisis hit. The museum is a registered charity and relies heavily on income from events, annual memberships, ticket sales, visitor spend in the shop and cafe as well as railway experience courses and donations. The current crisis has hit hard and their future is uncertain. They are seeking support in the following ways:

**Essex Lottery** - historic locomotive restoration and the museum service has joined the list of good causes supported by the Essex Lottery. Run by Essex County Council, there is a weekly, Saturday draw and cash prizes up to £25,000 can be won. Anyone over 18 years of age can buy lottery tickets to support the museum by going to [www.essexlottery.co.uk/support/east-anglian-railway-museum](http://www.essexlottery.co.uk/support/east-anglian-railway-museum)

For those not keen on a lottery, donations can be made by sending a cheque (made out to East Anglian Railway Museum) to: East Anglian Railway Museum, Chappel Station, Colchester, Essex CO6 2DS or contacting the museum via the website: [www.earm.co.uk/contact-us](http://www.earm.co.uk/contact-us), Email the museum on: [information@earm.co.uk](mailto:information@earm.co.uk) or make a donation by card over the phone by calling 01206 242524 – the museum reception is manned on a part-time basis so leave a message for a call back.

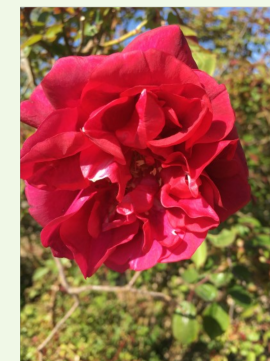
### Quote:

"Whether beer festivals are your thing or you bring the family along each year to see Thomas and Friends, the East Anglian Railway Museum is held in great affection to many people in the community and we hope to be able to raise enough money to keep going and continue welcoming visitors for another fifty years... at least!"

**Catherine Harrison, Marketing Manager**

## Climate Change in Chappel & Wakes Colne

Congratulations to the Village Reporter on your 100th edition! By my calculations the first edition must have been back in 2004, when times were very different indeed.



I'm writing this in mid April, tidying up my hanging baskets and pots from last summer. Back in 2004 we used to do this in the autumn, and put winter bedding in to provide colour through the short, dark days, but now I find most of my geraniums, fuchsias and lobelia hang on through the winter, even giving some flowers. So now I'm just giving last year's summer bedding a prune and tidy up, and popping in some new plants and fresh compost where something more tender has given up. Some of my geraniums have kept going for over 5 years outdoors now. In 2004 roses would start blooming here in early June, and we would try to time Open Gardens to catch the first beautiful flush, but I took these pictures of roses in my garden on April 19th this year. Times have changed!

Life in our villages has especially changed so much over the last few weeks. Life without work and school has been very stressful for some, others are frontline workers bravely facing risks they never expected to see at work, or are worrying for family and friends who are on the front line, or who are ill. Some are already mourning those we have sadly lost. Many of us are really missing their family and friends, but some of the changes have been positive. We are relatively fortunate here in that many have gardens to tend, we have plenty of open space to walk and cycle, on roads that have become quieter, and the beauty and hope of spring surrounds us.

I've seen a huge increase in community spirit, with friends and neighbours looking out for each other, using WhatsApp, Zoom and other social platforms to maintain face to face contact. Even in lockdown it's possible to make new friends and strengthen existing friendships. The WI was formed in times of adversity, in WW1, to help countrywomen pull through difficult times, and Chappel and Wakes Colne WI are proud to continue that tradition. We have increased our meetings from every month to every 2 weeks, still on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm, but now on Zoom instead of at the Village Hall. If any ladies in our villages would like to join us, please contact me on jbandajs@aol.com. It doesn't matter if you're not a WI member, and it doesn't matter if you don't know how, we will show you. Many of us are new to this technology but we are having a lot of laughs learning how to make it work for us. We really enjoy seeing each other, it feels as though we are all in the same room. Sorry, men are not invited, perhaps they could form their own Man Shed group online.

With Covid 19 we are acutely aware that more planning and preparation could have minimised this crisis. We can learn from this, and try to prepare ourselves for the climate crisis as it rapidly draws closer. Unfortunately shutting down industry and transport has not cured global warming, the carbon is still up there, just increasing more slowly now. Recently the Gazette published that in 2017 just 2% of Colchester Borough's carbon emissions were absorbed by trees, so we need both more trees and far fewer emissions.

Now that our outdoor exercise time is limited we are valuing, and using, it more. I'm seeing more families walking together, more cyclists and joggers than ever before. If we can keep up those good habits when we are released from lockdown it will benefit our health, and that of the world around us. This may not be the right time to be asking our politicians to take action on climate change, but it is a great opportunity for us to evaluate what matters in our own lives. You may have time now to switch to a renewable only electricity supplier, check that all your light bulbs are LED, and look out some new vegetarian meal recipes. The new skills we are learning, and community groups we are forming, will stand us in good stead to face the climate crisis as it develops over the next few years. New habits like video consultations instead of jumping in the car to see your GP could become the new normal, working better than the old way for doctors and patients alike.

I look forward to the next 100 editions of the Village Reporter, as our local community, and supporting local groups and businesses, becomes ever more important to all our futures

**Jill Bruce, Climate Ambassador, Chappel and Wakes Colne WI.**





Above: Tug of war at the Summer Fete 2013



Above: Wakes Colne Church Choir 1923. C E Fairs, Church Master  
Below: Dedication of lychgate at Wakes Colne Church 1955



Above: Villagers group photo 18th July 1999.  
Below: Renovating Wakes Colne sign courtesy of George Alcock



Above: Church Cottages next to Wakes Colne Church c1930  
Right: Viaduct Café, 1980s, previously the Rose & Crown Inn. Today it is two houses  
Right below: Opening of Chappel Bridge 1907  
Below: Tree planting 8th May 1995

