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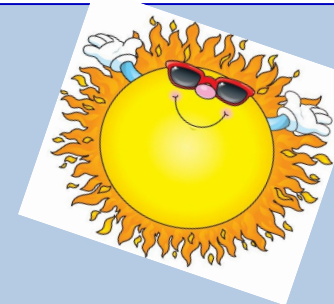
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The Chappel & Wakes Colne

# Village Reporter

July and August 2020 Issue no. 101

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



Read Peter Chillingworth's final part of his Memories of the last war on page 6



Millennium Green Update  
Page 6

Duck Tales

By Lucy Morgan

See page 7

Swans & Cygnets on the River Colne by The Swan Pub. Photograph taken by Karen Bennett

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 September 2020 issue - Friday 21st August 2020

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

## 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.chappelandwakescolnevillagerreporter.com/>

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



## 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)



Have you had to self-isolate?  
Do you need urgent supplies?

Chappel Parish Council and Wakes Colne Parish Council have a group of volunteers that are willing to help their community.

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 we will try to help you with collecting essential shopping, prescriptions etc.

Please contact us and we will do our best to put you in touch with a volunteer.

If you can volunteer to help your community please also contact us on the Volunteer Helpline - Hours of operation - 9am - 5pm

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)

Please leave a message if your call is not answered.

## Chappel Parish Council



### Thank You

Chappel Parish Council has continued with our monthly meetings not in the Village Hall but via Zoom. We have discussed Planning and Financial matters and anything else which has required attention. Thank you to everyone who contacted us and became a volunteer for those who needed any help or assistance. To Jo, Louise and Mandy for delivering our leaflets and to all friends and neighbours who have supported each other. Please contact us if you need help.

### School Footpath

Chappel Parish Council are pleased that the footpath at the back of the school gates has now been installed. This was paid for by Chappel Parish Council along with some grant funding from Essex County Council. Chappel Parish Council are very grateful to Essex County Council for these additional funds.



### Electric Trains

The Parish Council have received complaints regarding excessive noise from some of the new trains being used on the Sudbury to Marks Tey line. There seems to be an intermittent fault with one of the trains and in order for the Parish Council to take this further we would appreciate you contacting us with times and dates if you notice this noise.

### Colchester Woodland Project

Chappel Parish Council are currently working with Colchester Borough Council with regards to planting trees on the Parish Field and would like to involve the community in taking this project forward. If you would be interested in finding out more or indeed being involved in the project, please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

### Play Area

The Play Area remains closed due to Government advise with regards to COVID-19.

### Parish Council

Our next meetings are due to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> September commencing at 7.30pm. It is likely that these meetings will be conducted by Zoom, however, a decision will be placed on the Parish Council's website a week before each meeting is due to take place. If you would like to join the meeting via Zoom please contact the Parish Clerk for joining details.

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/ChappelPC/>  
Chairman: Sue Chamley Email: [sue.chamley@chappel.org](mailto:sue.chamley@chappel.org)  
Clerk: Helen Cook Email: [parishclerk@chappel.org](mailto:parishclerk@chappel.org)

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We are sorry that over the past few issues the sad loss of villagers have not been mentioned. It has been hard to collect details but if anyone has a relative or friend who has passed away in the villages and would like to write a few words about them for the next issue, please contact Mandy Sexton.

**Thank you so much to all those who have helped those who have been self-isolating. We know who you are and you are much appreciated xxx**

**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



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## 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

Let me commence with some welcome and interesting news by informing readers that a resident living in Wakes Colne Parish, Morag Ellis QC has just been appointed by the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York with approval of Her Majesty the Queen to the position of 'Dean of Arches and Auditor' an ancient title dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It makes the holder the most senior ecclesiastical judge in the Church of England. Morag is the second woman to hold the title in its history, she also becomes 'Master of the Faculties' being responsible for the regulation of the Notarial profession in England and Wales along with some overseas jurisdictions.

Other hard earnt positions picked up on the way have been 'Commissary General' of the Canterbury Diocese [2011], 'Deputy Chancellor' of the Dioceses of Southwark [2013], 'Panel Chair' to Clergy Discipline [2015] and a member of the Legal Advisory Commission to the General Synod [2019].

As a Parish we welcome the news and trust her new appointment is successful, at the same time we hope she will enjoy some quiet chill out time with her family in Wakes Colne.

During the lockdown period our household have taken advantage of home delivered supplies from various local Farm shops who produce some really flavoursome and succulent meat products, including Colne Valley Lamb, reared just down the road, far superior in quality to most Supermarkets and with much shorter road miles, now that is being green in practise. It has opened my eyes to discover that we have such good local retail establishments that have kept us going throughout the last couple of months with their meat and vegetable boxes but despite their higher price the quality has been outstanding. As a household we will continue to use their services. However, we will continue to support Chris Eaton & his team who have pulled out all the stops to offer the Villagers a great service, as usual. Wakes Colne Parish Council held our June meeting via a virtual communication which proceeded without any great IT failure despite my present abominable low broadband speed. Hopefully once County Broadband complete their installation later this year around our Village reception will quickly improve and we will enjoy a promised superfast speed. Further interactive Council meetings are likely to operate over the next couple of months but I trust that the Village Hall meetings will resume shortly to the benefit of all.

Whilst I mention County Broadband, I have been in touch with the Company to ensure that they reinstate the path leading to the letterbox on the A1124, this they have confirmed will be completed.

The Council are currently trying to improve the lighting at the Railway Station although we have little control over the site but are liaising with those that can make the difference. The proposal for a Zebra Crossing is still in our minds and despite a frightening figure of £100,000 quoted for the installation being mentioned I note the town of Henley on Thames in Oxfordshire has after ten years of trying managed to have had one installed at a cost of just £37,000. Why has a figure of £100,000 been thrown at us, I leave that to your conjecture? I understand the crossing proposal is currently stuck awaiting a CDPV survey by the County Authority these are suspended at the present time.

Finally, each household in the Wakes Colne Parish should have received a copy of our 2019 annual report, if not, then contact the Council on 07508 787 869.

Stephen Scrase



### Museum Volunteers Back to Work...

Volunteers are starting to return to work at the East Anglian Railway Museum, due to the relaxing of the lockdown rules and in anticipation of the museum potentially re-opening in the next few weeks.

Strict health and safety guidance for working arrangements has been issued by the museum trustees who are following government guidance to ensure that volunteers stay safe whilst at the museum site.

Although a firm date is yet to be announced by government, museum staff are hopeful that they will be re-opening for visitors sometime in July, just in time for the school Summer holidays, and the working volunteers are helping to prepare for that. Pressing jobs include the maintenance and upkeep of the museum's fleet of historic locomotives, continuing with the construction of a new miniature railway and general site maintenance and repair including gardening and painting after nearly twelve weeks of closure.

Like many others, the museum has experienced a massive shortfall in income as a result of Coronavirus and the packed calendar of events, including a classic vehicle show, a vintage music and dance event and the annual steampunk fair have all been cancelled along with the season of weddings, usually held in the museum's historic Goods Shed.

Thomas the Tank Engine is a regular visitor to Chappel and usually attracts hundreds of visitors over the August Bank Holiday weekend however, as mass gatherings are still prohibited until the foreseeable future, this event and the famous Chappel Beer Festival in September, are also at risk of cancellation. Measures are currently being put in place to ensure visitors can stay safe when the museum re-opens including more hand washing and sanitising facilities, screens at reception and other high-contact points and clear signage reminding visitors to observe social distancing rules. The seventeen-acre museum site makes social distancing easier than in some indoor museums and, when the museum does re-open, visitor numbers will be limited, and timed tickets may be introduced at busier times.

For up to date information, see the museum website: [www.earm.co.uk](http://www.earm.co.uk) or on Facebook @earailwaymuseum.

Quote:

*This is a really positive step forward for museum volunteers who, as well as being the lifeblood of our museum and providing a vital service, they really benefit personally from keeping active and from the camaraderie and social interaction volunteering provides.*

**Catherine Harrison, Marketing Manager**

### John Richardson

John, our Rector for the past 30 years, retired on the 31st May. He joined us in 1990 filling the post which was left vacant after the retirement of Norman Cotgrove and he came to us from St James, Clacton where he had been curate. He is a local man born and educated in the Colchester area. We will remember all the work he, together with Jane, did for us.



John was very active in maintaining the link between the Church and the village school, which is of a church foundation. He arranged for the school to have many services and assemblies in Chappel church which were appreciated.

Other events in the Church included the annual crib service on Christmas Eve, of which he was a keen supporter. He was also involved in Church youth work and the Sunday School. Through the years he took many of our young through classes for Confirmation. Many of us will have appreciated his enthusiasm on family occasions such as weddings and baptisms as well as his help at times of bereavement.

To have been with us for 30 years is most unusual these days and we will miss his quiet but definite leadership. He maintained a system of regular church worship with strong emphasis on the traditional Anglican style. We wish John and Jane a very happy and healthy retirement at their new home in Coggeshall. God bless you both.

**Christopher and Marion Cordingley, Christine Maskell and Richard Harris**

### Bee Lines



To begin with, please take a good look at the two pictures to the left. I will be asking questions later. I will give you a small clue; yes they are both bees.

My career as an official swarm collector has begun slowly. So far only one swarm has come my way, from Fordham, of all places. It was a smallish collection of bees, attached to a low garden wall. They were quickly brushed into a cardboard box and left alone until nightfall, in order for any absentees to return to the main body. The box was then ventilated and sealed and transported to my garden for the remainder of the night.

Next day, the bees were removed to my apiary where they were shaken into a small hive. A frame of brood and eggs from another hive was added, as this encourages the swarm to stay in place, as bees do not like to desert their young. I was unsure as to whether the swarm was a prime swarm, with a fertile queen present, or a secondary one, headed by a virgin queen which would need to get mated before she could start laying, a process which may take several weeks.

Two weeks later, on inspection, I was unable to locate the queen, but did see eggs and small larvae; so the swarm was a prime one, although on the small side. Several weeks on, the hive is building up nicely, and although it will not be strong enough to supply me with any honey, it will stand a good chance of getting through the winter, to become a productive colony for next year.

Two other calls were less fruitful. One swarm had moved on before I arrived; this is always a risk as a hanging swarm is only ever temporary, as the bees seek out a more permanent residence. The other was high up in a hawthorn tree and therefore inaccessible to me. It was a pity, as I had to advise the householder that as a beekeeper and not a mountaineer, I was not prepared to take the risk of climbing up her tree, adding that the swarm would move on in the next couple of days.

Several other calls turned out to be bumble bees. Honey bees and bumbles are often confused by members of the public at this time of year. Later on, an abundance of wasps add to the confusion, so how do you tell the difference? Behaviour is the first clue. If you have honey bees or wasps resident in your roof, you will see a lot of activity, with hundreds of insects coming and going. The flight patterns are direct, with the insects entering the building through a crack or small hole. Bumblebees are much less in number, but will appear to be more numerous than they actually are. This is because a couple of dozen males will hover outside the nest without ever making entry. They are waiting for the females to emerge, and it is all part of the mating ritual.

In appearance, it is also possible to tell the different bees apart. I am assuming that most of us can recognise a wasp when we see one, so what are the features that distinguish a honey bee from a bumble?. Let us return to the pictures we saw at the beginning of the article. They were sent to me by a friend marooned in a flat in South London.

When terminal boredom set in, she started to photograph the wildlife on her balcony garden. She correctly identified that one of her visitors was a honey bee, and the other was a bumble bee. Unfortunately, she got them the wrong way round. Can you correctly identify them?

The honey bee is the creature in the lower picture. It has a thinner and longer abdomen than the bumble, resembling a slightly smaller common wasp, but with darker banding on the abdomen. It varies in colour from yellow to grey. The bumble bee, of which there are several species, vary in size from about the same as a honey bee, to several times larger; but generally are shorter in the abdomen, appearing squat, and much hairier than their honey bee cousins. Several of the more common species, including the one in the picture, have a pale grey, white of buff coloured band on their lower abdomen.

If you have a nest in your house, and they are bumble bees or wasps, leave them alone if they are not causing you a nuisance. They die out before winter, and do not occupy the same nest in following years. Honey bees, on the other hand, are more of a problem, occupying the nest for several years, and re-occupying vacant nests whenever possible. Professional advice is required before any action is taken, as there may be many thousands of bees in a honey bee nest, and their removal or control can be quite difficult, and dangerous, for an amateur to attempt.

Happy days!

**Your Bee Correspondent, The Old Drone**

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Hello, I'm Edward. I am a university student studying English Literature, Art History and Photography. I have been helping The Village Reporter with scanning in old photos that you may have seen in the last issue to celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> publication. I took the time to scan in and digitally restore the photographs using a computer to bring back the brightness and memories they hold so that they could be shared and appreciated again. I have had a few requests to do the same from others for their personal photograph collections to bring back their family memories to be reprinted or stored on their computer.

If you have old photographs, albums or negatives laying around you want to see new again, contact me on the information in the advertisement above to discuss what you would like and prices.



Beside Mr. Dose workshop at Sunnyside Hill, Chappel





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 . . .

The phrase 'social distancing' is a recent addition to our vocabulary that has become all too familiar in recent months. It is shorthand, as we all know, for the practical physical precautions that we all need to take in order to protect ourselves and others during the coronavirus pandemic. It is an effective way of limiting the spread of the virus, and keeping as many as possible as safe as possible.

But 'social distancing' as an expression is one that we perhaps need to use very carefully, if at all. Language is the way we express our thoughts and feelings, and the very last thing we need at this time is a mindset of social isolation. Certainly there must be physical distancing, but we can be close in other ways. For every hand we can't shake there may be a 'phone call we can make; for every contact we must avoid there may be a word of kindness or concern; over every metre that is between us there may be an invisible bridge of companionship.

Over the last three months, churches and other communities have had to seek new ways of maintaining their social cohesion in the face of physical

distancing. Often these efforts have involved the use of communications technology to bring people together and maintain their community spirit.

It has been challenging, but necessary, for we must not allow distancing to become isolation, nor the bonds of faith or common purpose to weaken and break. We seek new ways of fulfilling the commandment of Jesus to 'love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another'.

Let's stay safe. And let's draw one another closer in ways that we've never done before.

Ken

## A Prayer . . .

*'Let us give thanks to God, who sees possibility beyond tragedy, who speaks into places of distress, and who offers life from a cross'* John Procter

## Sunday Services by E-mail and video

Our Minister Ken has been sending weekly acts of worship to his three churches – Chappel, Lion Walk and Christ Church URC churches. Our member and URC Lay Preacher, Michael Topple has also been producing Sunday services live via video link as well as by subsequent recordings.

Lion Walk services can be found at <https://www.lionwalkchurch.org/> and Michael's at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCChPndziQ\\_Mp7z-5odZ4qHQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCChPndziQ_Mp7z-5odZ4qHQ)

## CORONAVIRUS – Covid 19

### Resumption of Sunday Services

As I write, (11th June) it appears as though the government may sanction services of worship starting in July. If this happens, the earliest we could return here at the Chapel would be September. Maximum space in the Chapel and Meeting Room would be needed once the organ is reassembled to reconfigure seating to conform to social distancing etc – a challenge to very small churches.

## Organ Restoration Appeal surpasses Target

Chappel URC launched its £10k target in May 2019 to restore its historic pipe organ. In June this year, £11,600 has been donated, and after Gift Aid is claimed the total will be £12,500.

We are grateful to all who have contributed. The estimated cost of the work is £14,200.

## Our 'Good News' story resulting from 'Lockdown'

The restoration work on the organ has started already, two years before initially planned. Our self employed restorer requested bringing the scheduled work forward in view of the impending 'lockdown' of his regular work of organ tuning and maintenance mainly in Anglican churches. As a result, the work is well under way with parts of the instrument strewn around the church and most of it at his workshop. The organ will start to be reassembled during July and hopefully in playing order during August.

## CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE WOMENS INSTITUTE

On 20<sup>th</sup> May twenty-two ladies linked up to our Zoom meeting with Darren Tansley from the Essex Wildlife Trust to listen to his talk entitled "Taming the Flood – A Beaver's Tale". What a lovely evening it was and Darren is such a knowledgeable and professional speaker. We learnt that the beaver is Europe's largest rodent and the species has been in existence since the ice age. They were hunted in the UK for their fur and castor oil from their glands so were almost wiped out – the last beavers disappeared in the 16<sup>th</sup> century from Loch Ness.

Moving on to the present the animals are now being used to help with flood control in certain areas. Following projects with the Devon Wildlife Trust it has been found that the beaver dams hold back water during flash floods and retain it during drought conditions as water leaks through the dams slowly enabling areas to stay wet and support wildlife like frogs, bats, birds and invertebrates. The dams also filter water and reduce nitrate and phosphate levels. The Spains Hall Estate in Finchingfield is a project started in February 2019 by the Trust and the land owner, as an experiment to see what effect the beavers could have on the ongoing winter floods in the village. Two beavers – male and female – were introduced to the site in March 2019 where wardens had created an artificial pond and a lodge for them. As the year moved on the weather became drier and the artificial pond almost disappeared. Wardens visiting the site could not make out what had happened to the beavers and discovered that they had created another living area further upstream – they had built nine dams, transport canals and a new lodge in their own wetland area. Later in the year they apparently went back to the original site and redesigned the water course making the area a habitable wetland again – what clever engineers they are!

Today scientists can take water samples from streams, rivers etc. and test the DNA in the sample and are able to tell what creatures have visited the area – sometimes it brings surprises like a pygmy shrew which is only the size of the top of a thumb and is quite rare – brilliant stuff!

We have been finding some interesting archive snippets from the minutes back in the 50's when the country was recovering from the war.

**JANUARY 1950 – Mr Hull gave a most fascinating lecture with very good lantern slides on Roman Colchester, and many of us were surprised to learn that our town was so very famous amongst archaeologists for its Roman remains.**

**FEBRUARY 1950 – A parcel has been received from Filabusi WI near Bulawayo in Southern Rhodesia for which the secretary wrote a warm letter of thanks on our behalf, this included a number of tins of very welcome foodstuffs and a four pound plum cake.**

**A letter was read from the County Secretary heralding a parcel from the Shamva WI in Southern Rhodesia. This parcel was opened with great appreciation by members. It contained a pretty overall as wrapping, 1lb currants, 1lb sultanas, a packet of custard powder, a jelly, 2 bags of sugar, a tin of corned beef, a tin of jam and one of dried milk. It was decided to use the jelly and custard powder and apron as prizes for competitions. The other food to help with refreshments at our summer fete.**

Next time I will try and find some more ancient minutes to share – meanwhile us ladies will continue to Zoom on a fortnightly basis so we are keeping the flag flying till we can meet again on a proper basis.

[Dorothyb.crees@google mail.com](mailto:Dorothyb.crees@google mail.com)

## CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

### CONTACTS

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## Chappel C of E (VC) Primary School Report

It has been a very strange three months. Like many schools across the country we have remained open for the whole time since lockdown, although with a much reduced number of children.

Teachers have had to learn and adapt to a totally different way of delivering learning to children at home and in school. For those in school we have made sure that they have enjoyed a range of activities including cooking and a variety of arts and crafts. For those at home we have set learning via our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which has been a steep learning curve for both staff and children.

Early on during lock down we made a video for the children to just remind them we were thinking of them. It can be seen on our school website, along with the video the children made of all their home learning activities.

<https://chappel.essex.sch.uk/essex/primary/chappel/>

Parents too have had to adjust to having their children at home, delivering home learning often whilst working from home themselves and dealing with rural internet issues. Our parents have been amazing, most children have engaged with the home learning and have kept in touch with their teachers by posting pictures of their home cooking, gardening or other interesting activities. We have really felt like a community, whilst being in our separate homes.

Our reception, year 1 and year 6 children joined the children of key workers from the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 and are enjoying the whole school experience, without showing any signs of anxiety. The staff and governors have worked extremely hard to ensure we can have groups of children and still maintain the social distancing advice. We have a one way system around the school, and our large field is great for having socially distanced play times.

As we come towards the end of term we are thinking about opening our school to even more children. Angus Forest has loaned us a marquee so that we can split the children into groups and we hope to welcome more children into school in the next week. The children really do benefit from coming back to school, even for a short time. We have some families who have decided to send their children back in September and these children will also benefit from the care and attention they are receiving at home. Whatever parents have decided to do, either come back to school or stay at home, this is the right decision for them and their families. The school supports them in their choices. We look forward to a time when we can all be back together again, hopefully in September.

I would like to thank everyone, both in school and the wider community for their support over the last few months.

**Julie Ingram, Head teacher**

**The views expressed in this missive are my views only .. they do not represent the views of any other person, body, authority or institute whatsoever.**

## C&WC CSW REPORT

Some really good news during these very difficult and different times. Brenda, one of C&WC CSW dedicated volunteers was rushed into hospital several weeks ago after having a heart attack. Brenda is home now and slowly recovering from this ordeal, thanks to the skills of the surgeons and NHS staff and TLC from her husband. *GET WELL SOON BRENDA, FROM ALL OF US IN CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE.* Stay safe.

Due to COVID-19 all CSW operations have been suspended. There is no report, however, the only figures I have to relay are January 2020 figures from Essex Police:

ONE Person killed on Essex roads, 68 serious casualties, 149 Mobile phone offences, 116 Drink Drive arrests, 144 Drug Drive arrests [now more drug drive than drink drive] 606 Seatbelt offense, 315 Vehicles seized – no insurance, 202 Careless driving prosecutions, 127 Roads Policing arrests , 6,746 – Road safety educational Courses delivered 1,037 - CSW warning letters sent  
Albeit we are not carrying out CSW shifts at the moment, as you know I have advertised in each Village Reporter that we need more volunteers to help with shifts [obviously when we are back on track] but no volunteers have come forward to help us to try and keep the two villages safe.

We started C&WC CSW in June 2016 and have continued through to COVID-19 stopping us. However, if we don't receive any volunteers to help us, then we will have to disband C&WC CSW.  
Since COVID-19, bearing in mind the children were not at school from 23 March, there were for the first few weeks, fewer vehicles on our village roads. However, not all good news, as those who are driving are belting through at much higher speeds than in "normal" times. I've seen it along the A1124 when I've taken the dog for a walk, and, from our property we can easily see vehicles going up and down Station Road, as I'm typing this, a motorbike has just belted up Station Road towards the Station doing at least 50mph in a 30mph zone!!!

On behalf of C&WC CSW – please stay safe, keep your distance when out, and keep well. Patrick Dent tel: 01787 220147  
email : [rushdenbeancounters@btinternet.com](mailto:rushdenbeancounters@btinternet.com)

## Climate Change in Chappel and Wakes Colne



A year ago, in July 2019, Colchester Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency, and we wondered what that meant. The Task and Finish Group, including our Councillor, Peter Chillingworth, have produced an action plan which answers some of our questions, and interested community groups are feeding back their responses now to the Group. The first question raised last year was, how ambitious is this declaration? Does it just cover Colchester Borough Council's offices, or is it the whole of Colchester? The answer seems to lie somewhere between the two.

There is certainly good intent within the Plan. It includes a good assessment of the short term climate change risks for the Colchester area, with milder, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers, more extreme high temperatures and more frequent downpours of rain, as well as possible higher wind speeds.

Colchester is making good progress in cutting carbon emissions compared with some other towns. The Council have been working on reducing their emissions for some years, reaching a 40% reduction from their 2008 peak level by 2019, a year earlier than planned. The ambition now is to reach net zero emissions by 2030, and that is certainly a good, ambitious target, but how will they get there?

They have plans to cut the Council's own gas bill for space and water heating in their buildings, and to make their own vehicles greener. There is also planning for much needed training so that all council decision makers adequately assess carbon impacts in their decisions, plans to further improve recycling rates, and to plant 200,000 trees by 2024. There is a pledge to ensure future housing and community development projects meet a carbon neutral standard by 2030. So far, so good, but there are no details on how carbon neutral building will be enforced. Parliament has not yet changed building regulations to make developers build to the zero carbon standards that have been standard in Germany and Scandinavia for many years.

Anyone who ventures into Colchester Town Centre will be aware of the air pollution there, compared to our relatively clean and fresh air here in Chappel and Wakes Colne. Some areas of Colchester town centre suffer illegally high levels of air pollution so Colchester Clean Air Group hoped that Colchester Borough Council would bid for up to £50 million of Department for Transport funds, available for a pilot project to be the UK's first all-electric bus town.

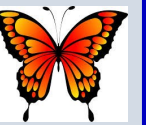
Unfortunately Cllr Kevin Bentley, Stanway, announced in the Gazette that Essex County Council would not back this bid as "only a small part of the funding would come from the DfT". The DfT say they put in 75% of the funding, but there is a lack of transparency here, either central government is talking up a very small amount of funding, or local government have missed an opportunity. Either way, the deadline has now passed, and we will have wait longer for clean electric buses.

Meanwhile car access is being restricted to parts of the town centre, initially to make space for socially distanced queuing outside shops, and to allow more people to walk and cycle safely to the shops. This should help keep the air a little fresher, and we will have to wait to see whether it is a popular change that will stay. The Gazette has carried out a poll which suggests opinion is fairly evenly divided. My preference is always for less traffic and fumes, but it seems others have different priorities.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan says they will "encourage all sectors across the borough to take steps to reduce waste and become carbon neutral". Colchester Council is to be commended for the efforts they are making, the plans look good, but so far there seems to be little detail on how they will be implemented, and that is the crucial part.

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

## Nature notes June 2020



Hunt for the Grizzled Skipper might sound like a maritime murder mystery, but was far from being that. By the end of May with birds quieter as nesting was in full swing, the early spring butterfly season over and driving (a bit) further afield ok, it was time to chase after a few butterflies I'd never seen before.

There are no sites in Essex as far as I know for this butterfly. Cambridgeshire has several, the nearest probably Woodwalton Fen. I chose one site slightly further away nearer Peterborough because I thought chances of finding it at a smaller place were better and there was also Dingy Skipper to be seen there, which would be another new one for me. This was an old quarry, quite compact, and finding the Grizzled turned out to be fairly easy. A beautiful small black and white chequered butterfly, one was basking on the dry path. Dingy Skipper from a distance is appropriately named, yet up close has very attractive intricate brown and grey patterning. It needed more hunting, and we found just one perched on an old thistle. And then a surprising bonus; this quarry also had another new thing for me – nationally rare Man Orchids, by now getting past their best but never mind.

Late May is also Heath Fritillary time, a butterfly almost extinct in the UK forty years ago, confined to a wood in Kent and a couple of places in the south-west. With careful management at its few remaining sites after intense study of its requirements, plus some re-introductions in Essex, it has survived. Hockley Wood just by Rayleigh is one of these. On a hot late May afternoon many people were walking slowly along the coppiced clearings photographing these small brown and black striped butterflies. I guess we saw 15 or so, and ironic given its rarity, here it was by far the most numerous butterfly around.

The question is why are these butterflies so local. The answer seems to be that, firstly, they are all lazy and won't wander far from their site, living in colonies in a sedentary way. Secondly, they are very very picky about living conditions. Although the Heath Fritillary does have more than one food plant, it is extremely particular on having coppiced and cleared woodland glades of just the right kind.

Meanwhile, butterfly numbers in the garden are picking up again as summer develops. In mid-June just while picking lettuces for 5 minutes, I had Comma, Large Skipper, Common Blue, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Small Heath and Small Tortoiseshell for company. On the evidence of my garden and local footpaths, the latter seems to be recovering a bit from its population plunge in recent years as I've seen several this year.

Birds in the village have varied from the usual through to worry, relief and spectacular. As usual, young Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers have fledged and been clumsily evident in the garden as they learn their trade. Our 6 House Martin nests are doing well, Buzzards and Sparrowhawks are soaring and Blackbirds and Mistle Thrushes eating the cherries. Worry is the number of Swifts. I saw just 2 overhead on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, and only 2 once more since then, with no screaming groups in the evenings here, although I did see one such group hurtling through Bures.

Turtle Dove is in steep decline. There used to be a pair between the station and viaduct, but that disappeared 3 years ago, following the sad national trend. Relief then to hear one making its low telephone-like purring song one recent evening near Middle Green. I didn't see it, but that is often the case with this bird, and hearing it was anyhow quite sufficient.

The Red Kite is spreading fast these days. It is not possible to drive along the M40 without seeing several. Usually going north along the M11 there are a few. I first saw one around here three years ago, and last year saw one a couple of occasions near the viaduct. One has been reported this year near Copford. Late afternoon the other day, one flew low right over the top of the house. The House Martins didn't seem to mind; I guess they can easily outmanoeuvre even the agile Kite. A truly spectacular bird against a blue evening sky.

**Tony Witcher**





## Memories of the Last War 4

With the war drawing to a close and VE Day commemorations behind us, these will be my last memories of the war. Towards the end, food was still rationed and in short supply. With no supermarkets in those days, our local meat, mainly sausages and a small amount of pork and bacon was provided by Mr Burdett from his butcher's shop on Rose Green. With its slaughterhouse behind, it was sited where the Old Shambles now stands. Groceries and other needs mainly came from the village shops, where are now Chappel Gallery and Raynham House opposite the school; and of course, the Post Office. Some deliveries came from vans serving outlying homes. There were of course other ways of getting meat in the countryside. In our case, Mr Theobald who lived in the Lodge at Vernons, came ferreting; occasional rabbit stew was a favourite at Oak Farm!

Although the commercial poultry had gone and with it the egg round in town, we kept a few hens for the house. Like many, encouraged by government entreaties, we grew most of the seasonal fruit and vegetables we needed and passed surpluses on to others, including my grandparents in Colchester. I remember a lot of potatoes! My parents talked longingly of unobtainable foods such as bananas, which I never ate until the 50s. Generally, those in the country did better for food than those in the towns; looking back we had a very healthy diet, but certainly did not get overweight!

As well as Mr Biggs, we had two 'Land Girls' working on the farm. Joyce and Dorothy were members of the Women's Land Army, originally from London, they were billeted in Fordham and cycling over daily. They were lovely, hard working and friendly; both came back to see us sometime in the 60s. Towards the end of the war, we had 'gangs' of German and Italian prisoners working on the farm at harvest time. I think the Germans came from the camp which is now the Military Corrective Establishment in Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, and the Italians from a camp at High Garrett near Braintree.

Their work was to followed the 'binder' that cut the corn, tied into sheaves and dropped to the side. The prisoners then gathered the sheaves in 6s placing them against each other in 'stooks'. These were left to fully dry out and ripen for a couple of weeks. Then the sheaves were loaded onto a horse and cart, taken back to the yard and built into stacks to await the 'threshing machine'. This came round annually during the winter towed by a steam traction engine. The Germans were my favourites; they seemed to me to be so very big and jolly, but that was because they made a fuss of me and threw me between each other on the corn stack they were building! I am sure some will have seen terrible things before they were captured, and were perhaps glad to be safely living a farming life in England. Although, with allied bombing destroying their cities, they must have been so worried for their families back home. They, like us saw the streams of day-time bombers heading east as they worked our land. I wondered what they found when eventually they returned home.

Looking back, as a child getting to know and liking these German prisoners, must have affected how I saw the Germans in the years ahead. Government news and 'propaganda' encouraged the nation generally to 'hate' Germans; we were after all trying to defeat Hitler and the Nazi state through total war; they were killing our forces, blitzed our cities and some of our troops were to see first hand German concentration camps.

In later years, I have been so pleased to take part in visits to Wetzlar, Colchester's 'Twin' town in Germany; a country market town, in some ways similar to Colchester, and to become friends with some lovely people. Our twinning started when an ex-prisoner with the unlikely name of Siggi Sachs from Wetzlar, who had been in the Colchester camp and got on well with local people, initiated the twinning.

During my year as Mayor of Colchester, a party from Colchester attended their annual Wienfest, Ann and I as their guests. On the last evening I accompanied the Region's Wien Princess around the many stalls in the market square, tasting their produce until we both had to call it a night; the hospitality was so good!

A party from Wetzlar came over to celebrate 60 years of twinning last October, as our guests to the Oyster Feast, and then to a celebratory lunch next day. On the way back to Stansted, we entertained them to tea on our lawn at Oak Farm. I felt the circle was complete!

Peter Chillingworth



It has been a long time since I last wrote for The Reporter but these are interesting times to record!

The incidence of Covid19 showed two things, the first being how much locals found peace and exercise by visiting the green and, whilst I used the lockdown time to work in the orchard, I was constantly engaged in socially distant conversations. The second was how much visitor footfall fell off in the early days of lockdown but made an extraordinarily strong resurgence once restrictions were lifted with many outside visitors using the green.

Those of you who have visited since lockdown will have had to make your way past the obstacle of a cut-down container; don't worry this will not stay near the gate but will soon be moved behind the field shelter where it will be used for storage so that we can have volunteer groups to help us maintain and improve the environment. One of the tasks we are going to undertake is to hedge lay sections of the boundary to improve visual access to areas outside the green, all I have to do is recall how to do this since I will certainly be at least rusty.

We have enrolled with Colchester BC to help them with their target of planting thousands of trees across the borough. We have agreed to plant some sections of the old flood plain whilst keeping vistas across the plain and open areas for barn owls etc. They have agreed to supply us with over 200 trees for planting next November. Keep the date clear as this will definitely be a whole community effort.

The weather has played us foul this year with the orchard trees where we looked as if we were going to have a good crop of fruit but now will have hardly any. I read recently that this is common even among commercial growers but it doesn't make **me** feel any happier!

Our expenses as always don't go down and we need to raise funds each year to pay for maintenance and insurance. The 200 club remains our main source of revenue but Covid 19 played havoc with our renewal system as lockdown was declared just as I was going to deliver the letters. I have now caught up and you should have received your renewal notice. If this is the case please help us by dealing with it as soon as you can, we have continued to run the club and recent winners are: Christine Wakeling, Marnie Bradford, Gill Bruce, Penny Tentori and Karen Burt. As always we could really do with more members. If you use the Green or simply wish it to stay open we need your support: please contact me to get an application form, support The Green as well as possibly being a winner yourself.

Tony Langley

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## Duck Tales



What seems like forever ago now, it was announced that this years round of summer , was to be cancelled. I was actually sitting in front of the TV at the time, learning Romeo and Juliet quotes whilst keeping one eye on the daily Corona updates. After the initial shock and the range of emotions that came with it had passed I had my sights set on only one thing.

For as long as I can remember I've wanted to hatch ducks. Something about the whole process (which I'll explain in light detail in a minute) has always completely fascinated me. Hence I used my incredible persuasion skills and some "my summer is ruined" guilt trips to persuade my parents into allowing me to hatch some ducks of my own.

Honestly, I had no idea how I was going to pull this off; I had no experience hatching anything before, no incubator, no brooder, no coop and no eggs. Then the very next day Mum was out in the garden when Trudy came by to deliver the post..... and as most people know mums love a chat and thank God they do! As it turned out Trudy (who has quite a menagerie in her own garden), had an ancient incubator hidden somewhere in her loft and enough duck eggs to last a Century. She promised that, although she wasn't sure the incubator would even work, she would drop it at the house next time we had post. The next day, accompanied by more impulsive Amazon buys, an incubator and 14 eggs turned up at my house. Trudy said it was simple, just plug it in, stick the eggs in and go!

For first time hatchers it certainly didn't feel this simple! My Mum had, on top of my own research, done extensive reading on everything that could possibly go wrong! Despite this, I plugged it in and plonked the eggs in along with a cup of water.

The next 26 days were reasonably uneventful and eventful at the same time. We found out that 6 of the eggs were fertilised and discarded the rest as they can explode (not joking) and stink out not just your incubator, but the entire house. I turned the eggs 3 times a day -this ensures the nutrients from the egg are completely absorbed whilst forming the duckling, and every couple of days topped up the water. By day 26, 3 of the 6 eggs seemed viable, ready for the big hatch.

On day 27 my Dad knocked on my bedroom door at 6:30 to tell me my first duckling had appeared. I leapt out of bed earlier than I had done in at least a

month and sure enough there was our first ball of fluff. In the evening egg 2 had not made much progress. We had been watching it struggle all day not managing to get any further than stick its beak out a couple of times. So we decided to make an executive decision - against all duck blogger advice - and help it hatch. We ended up peeling off some of the shell, like you would a boiled egg and eventually duck 2 came out unscathed.

The next morning the final egg had hatched. We now had three very tiny ducks in our possession. Kindly Rob Moore up on Bacons Lane lent us his brooder (a heated box for the ducklings), gave us some pearly words of wisdom and we moved the ducks out of the incubator and into the shed.

Over the last few weeks we have watched the ducks grow and become goofy, quirky characters. They peck our freckles and poo all over the kitchen floor after entering the house uninvited. They have now moved into a coop (also provided by Rob - thank you!) and roam around the garden chasing flies and eating worms all day. We have created a "river" for them in the back garden and bought a paddling pool as a makeshift pond. It's fair to say they're extremely spoilt. Somehow they've made the whole covid experience bearable; by taking care of and having them follow you around the garden like needy children, but also by creating a sense of purpose during these strange times. It has also shown me the kindness and generosity of others and the wonderful community spirit that lives in Chappel.

I would like to say another massive thanks to Trudy and Rob because without them this would have never been possible. Also a shoutout to my Mum who has helped me look after the ducks (both financially and with her extensive duck wisdom), my Dad who has let this all happen, including the slight wreckage of the garden and anyone and everyone who's asked and been interested in the ducks.

Loki, Wilbur and Turtle it's been a mad few weeks but the best fun too!

Lucy Morgan



## 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.

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**Call or email me for a talk about your needs.**

**Graham King**

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