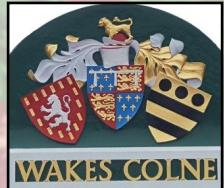


The Chappel & Wakes Colne



Village Reporter



December 2025 to February 2026 Issue no. 127

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



Join the Millennium
Green 200 Club!
See page 6
For details

For Christmas
Church Services see
Pages 3 & 4

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Anyone wishing to submit an article for publication can contact Mandy Sexton on 07729236253 or
email: mandymsexton@hotmail.co.uk Press date for the March to May 2026 issue - Monday 16th February 2026

LOCAL INFORMATION

Earls Colne Surgery:	Appointments 01787 222022
Bures Surgery	Appointments 01787 227529
County Councillor	Lewis Barber 0787 6237137
Police Colchester Station	01245 491491 (non emerg. 101 emerg. 999)
Chappel C of E School	Head Teacher Sarah Stevenson 01787 222296
Churches: COE	Christine Maskell 01206 241261
Chappel URC	Anthony Percival 01206 240442
Wakes Colne Post Office	01787 222449
National Rail Enquiries	03457 4849 50
Citizens Advice Bureau	0800 144 8848
Childline	0800 1111
Samaritans	116 123
Chappel Parish Council	Clerk: Ms. Helen Cook 01206 589095
Chappel Website	www.chappel.org
Chappel Chairperson	Cllr. Sue Chamley sue.chamley@chappel.org
Wakes Colne PC Clerk:	clerk@wakescolne-pc.gov.uk
Wakes Colne PC Website	www.wakescolne-pc.gov.uk
Wakes Colne PC Chairman	Cllr. Peter Chillingworth
East Anglian Railway Museum	Peter Martin 01206 242524
Royal British Legion (Ladies)	Val Sayer 01206 240328
Women's Institute	Neris Roberts 01787 223855
Village Hall	Denise Stocker denise.stocker@woodbre.co.uk
Earls Colne & District Dog Training Club (Mon 7pm)	
Val Sayer	07972 252987

Villages in Bloom

Hello everyone, I would like to update you on the Villages in Bloom project and on how well we are doing.

We had a fantastic response to our first article asking for volunteers and would like to thank everyone who volunteered. If anyone else is interested in being able to give some of their valuable time please feel free to contact me at the address below. Everyone is welcome.

We've had our first meeting and discussed possible sites, displays and a host of other things that will make our project a success and a pride to our villages. It was great to see such enthusiasm and wonderful ideas put forward by everyone. I would also like to thank our local Councillor, Lewis Barber, both parish councils and local businesses for their support in getting Villages in Bloom off the ground. We do still need some help from the community; if you can spare any gardening hand tools or other related tools, please let me know and I'll collect them from you. Please don't worry about their condition as we can refurbish, and any excess will be donated to a local charity to be redistributed where needed.

Also, we are looking for unusual items that we can use as part of our displays, so if anyone has an odd rowing boat (with or without holes), carts or suitable farm equipment they feel that could be enhanced in some way and that we might potentially use in our displays, please let me know.

Contact: ngel.lippiatti@yahoo.com



Chappel and Wakes Colne

Station Adopters

At the time of writing in August it was searingly hot. Today, the middle of November, the outdoor thermometer is reading 16 degrees centigrade! An exceptional temperature for this time of year. The forecast for next week though is much cooler. The plants at the station have responded wonderfully to the rain and the warmth. The garden at the entrance remains full of colour. Cosmos, hebe, rudbeckia, and hardy geraniums are putting on a grand show. On the platform, nasturtiums, salvias, million bells, curry plants, and hardy salvias are in bloom.



After a busy summer our attention is turning to make the station even more wildlife friendly. We have installed a hibernaculum which provides underground shelter for small creatures through the winter. Our plans to construct a stag beetle pyramid have been delayed while we wait for the materials, but we still do not know when they might arrive. We are hoping to build the pyramid before it gets too cold. If anyone in the village has some surplus oak or wood from broad leaved trees (not conifers) that is at least as wide as an adult arm, and of varying lengths that can be buried upright please let me know. Thank you. Kath Beck teyfields@gmail.com. We can arrange for collection. If we have more than one pyramid, I am sure all kinds of creatures will be very happy.

Our plans to put a living roof over the bicycle rack are moving ahead. Designs have been drawn up for an attractive construction that will include insect houses, and a water collection facility. Together with the Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership we are applying for grants to cover the cost. We believe this project will have many benefits to the community. We are hoping that more people will be encouraged to cycle to the station as their bicycles will be kept dry. The design will improve the look of the approach to the station, and provide more habitats for bees and butterflies. We are inviting the community to share their views about how we can improve the station further. We have had some great feedback from visitors and the school. Our thanks go to Alex Stevenson from Jordan's farm who has provided excellent advice on what we should grow on the living roof, plant in the grounds and how to make the hedge a home for a wide range of creatures. Please let us know your views on what you would like to see at the station and how it will benefit the community. For example, when the grass was long on the approach to the station, it was a joy to see parents and children hunting for grasshoppers.

We will be putting up a new bird box and installing a new planter shortly. This planter is also a hedgehog house. We have just received two boards that will help visitors to identify the bees and butterflies that visit our station. We will put these up near the garden. In addition, we have identified some other areas where we can sow more wildflower seeds.

On 17th September 2025 we were one of only six stations nationally nominated for the Best Small Station at the National Rail Awards. Bures was also nominated. Penrith won the award and we congratulate Bures for being Highly Commended. Greater Anglia Senior Managers told those of us representing Bures and Chappel and Wakes Colne at the event that they were very proud of the adopters. It is rare to have two stations next to each other or even with the same rail operator nominated for this nationwide award. We thank you all for your support and for your kind donations which enable us to obtain the plants we care for. We are also grateful to the EARM for the generous donation of water to keep the plants alive?

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Kath Beck and Al Cochram

VILLAGE REPORTER NEWS

If you are interested in being added to the Village Reporter mailing list, please sign up on the website, where 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

Working towards the
Kingdom of God,
through faith in Jesus
and love for the world



Chappel URC website via: www.lionwalkchurch.org/chappel-urc/

Worship at Chappel URC . . .

When we first moved to Halstead my husband and I took a trip into Colchester. As we were driving along past the viaduct I caught a quick glimpse of a huge banner which said, 'Come to Chappel Beer festival.' Not being very good at spelling, I indignantly said to my husband, 'fancy the church having to resort to selling beer to raise funds.'

Only later did we actually discover the Chapel at Chappel on Rose Green. This is one of the smallest chapels in the country but its size does not reflect a low standard of worship. Each Sunday the traditional worship of the church which takes place at 6:30 each Sunday evening, is beautified by the lovely music of our exquisite, small pipe organ, played expertly by our organist, and the sound of hearty singing often in four part harmony, of the congregation.

Christmas will find us celebrating the birth of Jesus with a lovely Candlelight Advent and Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 14th December 6.30pm where, the story of God's

Rev'd Jenny Martin BA - retired URC minister

plan to come and reach out to the world in love and forgiveness, is retold as it has been each Christmas for the last 2000 years. This is a message of deep comfort and hope for everyone in our village. Why not join us? It will warm your heart and give meaning to all those parties and family gatherings that we shall attend over the season.

Then too as New Year comes there will be worship that will look back at what is past and forward into the future with hope. This can often be a cold scary time for many who are anxious, not only about their own lives but also for their place in the troubled world in which we live. In this tiny church however, we shall be celebrating our faith in He who not only came as a baby at Christmas, but who also died and rose again commemorated at Easter in order to reach out in love to all. Why not come and join us and discover afresh God's message for you and all who you love.

Happy Christmas

Looking back over 2025 . . . Looking forward to 2026

2025 - In Spring The new replacement large west window in the Chapel was installed.

In Summer Complete external repainting of the Chapel premises.

In August 'Pipe-Up' A programme celebrating the Chapel's historic pipe organ - attracted a number of visitors. This was inspired by the Royal College of Organists project: Play the Organ Year 2025.

In September - Harvest The largest congregation so far in the year.

As a result, lots of collected foodstuffs sent to the Foodbank.

Lots of soup to the regular 'Soup-run' for the homeless organised by Colchester city centre churches. £260 collected for the charity *Christian Aid*. Seasonal refreshments served after the service.

2026 - The Chapel's 125th Anniversary

Plans are being made to celebrate the founding of Chappel Congregational Church in 1901. It joined the newly formed United Reformed Church in 1972 as a result of a scheme of union drawn up by the Congregational and English Presbyterian denominations.

Look out for details of our celebrations later on.

To ponder . . .

Christ in Christmas . . . 'Hark, hark, the wise Eternal Word like a weak infant cries! In form of servant is the Lord, and God in cradle lies'. Thomas Pestel c.1584 - c.1659

The term 'Church' (from the Greek 'Ecclesia') in Christian terms is defined as a company of believing people who are called out by God to meet together for worship and fellowship. 'Church' can describe a local congregation; the world-wide community of Christian people or a single denomination.



Advent and Christmas Carol Service
Sunday 14 December at 6.30pm
Mince pies, tea/coffee after the service
Christmas Eve Service
at 6.30pm
All welcome

Coffee and Chat

First Saturday morning of each month at 10.30-11.30am
No charge – just drop in

*Enjoy a 'cuppa',
cake and a chat*



St. Barnabas Church, Chappel



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



All Saints Church, Wakes Colne

Church Warden - Chappel: Mrs Christine Maskell, tel 01206 241261, email: lbriar@aol.com
Church Warden - Wakes Colne: Nigel Impey, tel 01206 240260, email: nigelandfiona@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer: Richard Bareham, tel 07977 111817, email: wccpcctreasurer@gmail.com

Dear Readers,

I cannot believe that here we are just over a month until Christmas, the time flies so fast. I have already seen the little ones at Chappel School preparing for their nativity and trying on angel costumes, such a special time for children, their excitement is building up to the big day. We have just held two remembrance services, one at Wakes Colne church and one at Chappel church which was a school service. They read prayers, sang songs and laid wreaths by the altar, a poignant moment for everyone attending. We now have new sound systems fitted in both churches and our grateful thanks go to everyone who contributed, what an amazing difference it has made to our services, especially where the children are involved. Our stand microphone means that even the littlest voices can be heard, we can all appreciate the beautiful words they have written. Our thanks go to Richard Bareham (treasurer) who organised the appeal and installation, a lot of hard work went into the planning and fundraising of this asset to our churches. It can be used for all services, funerals, weddings, concerts etc. A huge benefit to our community.

We had a beautiful wedding in September between Aimee Grimwood and Tristan Moseley, Chappel church was candlelit for the occasion and the sun shone, a perfect day for a special couple, congratulations to them both. We have also held two harvest festivals, one church and one school in October so all in all church life has been pretty busy. It will now get even busier as we approach the season of advent with lots of extra Christmas services planned. If you enjoy carols do come along to our Carols and Readings service on Sunday, 21st December and our Christmas Eve service, all details of these services will be listed on this page, we would love to see you all.

As this is the Christmas edition of the Village Reporter we would love to wish you all a wonderfully Happy Christmas.

I finish with a short meaningful verse by Iris W. Bray

Christmas is for giving
And for showing that we care,
For honouring the Christ Child
With the loving gifts we share.
The wise men gave of riches;
The shepherds, faith and love,
Each gift, in its own measure,
Was smiled on from above.



Blessings to you all Christine (Maskell)

I can be contacted on 07748968083, for any matters pertaining to church or for anyone in need of any help in any way. The church is there for everyone, please pick up the phone and see if we can offer you, our assistance. Anyone requiring home communion please dial the above number and ask for Christine

CHURCH SERVICES

December 7th Sunday 10.00 am Chappel, Morning Worship

December 9th Tuesday 6pm Chappel School, Carol Service

December 21st Sunday 3pm Chappel, Carols and Readings Service

December 24th Wednesday 10 am Chappel Christmas Eve Service

December 25th Thursday 10am GREAT TEY, Benefice Holy Communion Service

January 4th Sunday 10am Wakes Colne, Morning Worship

January 25th Sunday 10am Wakes Colne

Benefice Holy Communion Service

February 1st Sunday 10am Chappel, Morning Worship

February 18th Wednesday Little Tey 7.30pm, Ash Wednesday Service

February 22nd Sunday Chappel 2pm, Benefice Communion Service

February 25th Wednesday 7.30 pm Little Tey Lent Wednesday Compline



The Remembrance Service

It was lovely to see those who attended the Remembrance Service at Wakes Colne Church and on the Green on Sunday 9th November. Thank you to all those who donated to the Poppy Appeal in the villages.

Thank you to the businesses for their support and for displaying collection boxes.

Best wishes to all for Christmas and for the New Year.

Val Sayer 01206 240328

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Bee Lines

With the bees, I hope, safely tucked up in their hives for winter, we welcome the first cold snap of the season, as our thoughts turn, inevitably, towards Christmas.

Perhaps you are planning to give gifts of honey to friends and family this year. If so, there are a few things you might like to consider before you make your choices.

Honey comes in several forms. We are familiar with the ever-popular runny honey. If allowed to crystallise, it becomes set honey, and if chunks of honeycomb are added to runny honey, it is known as chunk honey, a form more popular in America than over here. As it is difficult to standardise the crystallisation of honey, the honey is often heated and allowed to crystallise under controlled conditions, to form a soft set honey.

Then there is creamed honey, which is runny honey that is heated and whipped in an automated process that incorporates air into the product, leaving a honey that is halfway between runny and soft set, but which will stay in that state for a long period of time. Finally, there is good old fashioned cut comb honey, where the honey is presented straight from the hive, contained within the beeswax cells exactly where the bees left it. So whilst all these choices might seem quite straightforward, there are a few other points to consider.

Firstly, where is the honey from? All honey sold in the UK must be labelled with the country of origin. Recent analysis of imported honey has revealed that some have been adulterated with sugar or corn syrup, and a few have contained pesticide residues. This has caused much concern as the adulterated honeys are almost impossible to detect by taste alone, needing sophisticated chemical analysis to reveal their true contents. If purchasing imported honey, it is probably best to go for single origin options, avoiding anything "blended". In particular, the label which states "A blend of EU and non EU honeys" always raises alarm bells with me. So far so good then; but hold on a moment.

The labelling rules for honey sold in the UK are very strict, but suppliers are always trying to "push the envelope" in order to enhance the perceived value of their product. This applies in particular to products described as "raw" and/or "organic".

We all would like our food to be as natural as possible, but the terms raw and organic can be particularly misleading. Let us first consider the term "raw" as it applies to honey.

There is no legal definition as to what constitutes raw honey. The term



was first used in the United States and quickly caught on over here. I am often asked if my honey is raw and I always try to explain it as follows. Any honey that is presented in a jar has been processed. It has been removed from the comb, either by gravity extraction or more likely by centrifugation. At some stage it will have been filtered to remove excess wax and bee body parts and that filtration will usually be aided by heating the honey, to a temperature which varies from gentle warming to pasteurisation.

So where should the line be drawn to define "raw" honey? I would suggest that the only truly raw honey is in the form of honeycomb, which leaves the hive exactly as the bees produced it; which is ironic really as I have seen the term "raw" applied to dozens of honeys, but rarely have I seen it used to describe honeycomb.

This now brings us to "organic" honey. The legal definition of organic varies from country to country. In the UK organic honey would be produced by bees kept in an organic manner and which only forage on certified organic plants. As bees are known to forage over an area of several kilometres, this almost certainly excludes any UK produced honey from being "organic".

Other countries may have different certification rules. I recently purchased a jar of organic honey from a well-known supermarket locally. The honey came from tropical African rain forests, was soft set and really quite a pleasant change. However, I could glean nothing from the label as to what constitutes organic in the country of origin. I made the purchase simply out of curiosity and the fact that the price of the jar seemed reasonable value for money.

Finally, we come to perhaps the greatest concern, and this is to do with honey that is mixed with other products, such as turmeric or other herbs and assorted additives. These products are mostly marketed on internet websites. They make somewhat exaggerated claims as to the medical benefits of their products and are very expensive. I even came across one online offering for raw organic "super honey" with a label which declared in very small print "warning- may contain traces of nuts".

So in conclusion, and in wishing you all a very happy Christmas and new year, if you are planning to give a gift of honey this year, please try to source your gift carefully. There are many excellent honeys out there and the few opportunists trying to part you from your hard earned cash can be avoided with a little care; or just give jam instead!

Your bee correspondent, The Old Drone



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Chappel Millennium Green

It was Monday 17th November and I had just sat down with my laptop to write this article for The Village Reporter. After typing for a while, I stood up to stretch my legs and walked over to the French doors. Looking out across the river and onto the Green, I saw some momentary white flashes, a barn owl was flying very low over the water meadow. I looked at my watch to check the time, it was 4.28pm. As I looked back, a second barn owl had joined the aerobatic display in search of supper. A few days later, my wife Jan was walking on the boardwalk around the water meadow just as the sun was setting. She was treated to another wonderful aerial display this time by a single barn owl. If you can spare the time, stroll around the boardwalk near sunset, you may be in for a treat.



As Autumn begins to give way to Winter, we are being blessed with a palette of leaf colours across the Green. The shadows of early morning sunrise together with the warmth of colours at sunset are a joy to see. Autumn fruits and berries have appeared in abundance this year and the community orchard did not disappoint. I trust many of you were able to sample and share the delights of fresh fruit from the orchard.

Winter maintenance tasks will be upon us very soon. We are very grateful to Wayne Goodchild for his recent repairs to the boardwalk. David and Shirley Green will once again be directing and supervising our committee members in their winter pruning of the community orchard fruit trees. Thank you for your many comments on how much you have enjoyed the new pathways mown through and around the orchard area.

You will have noticed we have a few Medlar trees in the community orchard with plenty of fruit on the branches. Once the fruit has been through a process called 'Bletting', the fruit's pulp can be eaten raw or used in various sweet and savoury applications. I am certainly no expert but I am informed, bletted Medlars have a unique flavour often described as a mix of apple sauce, date and caramel with a hint of citrus. Please do let us know if any of you have sampled our Medlars and how you prepared them.



We have plans to clear the self sown saplings that have appeared in the lower pond. If you are able, and would like to volunteer to help with this, please get in touch by using our email address which you will find at the end of this article.



We are very grateful to Christine Maskell and her family for the generous donation of a new seat in memory of her Husband Steve. I am sure you will remember that Steve and his engineering business had fabricated, installed and donated the Beacon when the Green was first established. It is a fitting tribute that the new seat, also designed by Steve, is positioned around the base of the Beacon for all to enjoy.

The 200 Club continues to generate essential funding towards the upkeep of The Green and I am pleased to announce we now draw two winners every month. A first prize of £50.00 and a second prize of £20.00. Recent prize winners are as follows:

September 2025 Draw – Ticket Number 91 – Jim Cotton-Betteridge £50.00

September 2025 Draw – Ticket Number 108 – Collin Abbott £20.00

October 2025 Draw – Ticket Number 200 – Amanda Voyce £50.00

October 2025 Draw – Ticket Number 49 – Sandra Blunden £20.00

November 2025 Draw – Ticket Number 43 – Denise Stocker £50.00

November 2025 Draw – Ticket Number 83 – Cathy Swan £20.00

The Draw takes place every month, usually at the Chappel Parish Council Meeting.

Do remember, a donation of £24.00 a year will now give you 24 opportunities of winning. This prize money is likely to increase again as more members join the 200 Club. Our Treasurer, Nick Ingram, has contacted the lucky winners and delivered their prizes.

Please note: It is now '**renewal time**' for membership of the 200 Club. Please continue to support us as the ongoing maintenance of the Green is funded by your generous commitment to the 200 Club. Do continue to visit and enjoy The Green and all it has to offer our community.

With Every Good Wish for Christmas and
The New Year

Peter Neubauer, Chairman.

Chappel Millennium Green Trust.

Email: chappelmillenniumgreen@gmail.com



MOBILE LIBRARY

Visits Swan Grove, Chappel 1.45 to 2.15pm.

(Note: sometimes the van arrives early)

Next dates: Tuesday 24th December 2025, 14th January,
4th and 25th February 2026



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Housing Needs Survey: Chappel & Wakes Colne

Dear Resident,

A Housing Needs Survey has been produced in response to Colchester City Council's recent draft revisions to the Local Plan. The Plan includes the proposal for 35 new houses on Chappel Hill to the South of Swan Grove in Chappel. The Plan also includes the proposal for 200 new houses on land to the West of The Village Hall on the North side of the A1124 in Wakes Colne. Looking forward, there may be other small developments proposed and therefore a Housing Needs Survey is pertinent at this time.

The residents of Chappel & Wakes Colne are therefore invited to complete this survey and say what you think are the requirements for additional housing and community amenities in the villages. The survey includes questions relating to the existing housing stock and infrastructure within the villages and asks what requirements you consider are important if new housing developments are to be built in Chappel & Wakes Colne. Hopefully the response to this outline survey will highlight the need for a more detailed consultation and even the future production of a Neighbourhood Plan which would allow you the villagers, to have more influence on planning policies that control proposed changes and development in your area and community. This survey has been distributed to every household in the Parishes of Chappel and Wakes Colne. All responses received will be anonymized, with all personal information remaining completely confidential.

Please respond to the survey by 31st January 2026. You can complete the paper form delivered with your Village Reporter Magazine and it can be posted in a box at Wakes Colne Post Office. Alternatively, the survey can be completed on-line by following the link below or using the QR code:

<https://forms.office.com/r/68Lg0fDwCH>



A collation of the responses will be published in the Village Reporter magazine and on Parish websites early next year. Councillors from Chappel Parish Council together with Councillors from Wakes Colne Parish Council have been involved in the preparation of this Housing Needs Survey. Thank you very much for your time and participation.

Chappel Parish Council and Wakes Colne Parish Council



Bures Rd * Station Rd Wakes Colne * A1124 Chappel
Ponders Rd Fordham * Moat Rd Wormingford * Sandy Hill
Mt. Bures

approx. 12.50 FINISH
the thatchers Arms mt. Bures



Local Plan Development Proposals

Consultation Drop-In Session

When:
Saturday 6th December
10am - 2pm

Where:
The Village Hall

What's Happening:
We're kick-starting the formal consultation process for the Local Plan proposals in Wakes Colne.

Come along to view the proposals as they currently stand, speak with the team, share your thoughts.

Why Attend ?
Your insight matters. Tell us what you see as the key threats and opportunities for our community.

All Chappel & Wakes Colne residents are welcome



For further information, please visit
www.wakescolne-pc.gov.uk/localplan
or e mail clerk@wakescolne-pc.gov.uk

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CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE WOMENS INSTITUTE

We have to think back to those wonderful summer days in August when we had our outing to the gardens of Easton Lodge in the village of Gt. Easton near Dunmow. The venue was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Unfortunately like all our gardens this one had also suffered from the very hot weather but there was still plenty to admire especially the loaded fruit trees and the tranquil Italian Garden. The original Warwick House was a vast property with its accompanying estate dating back to Tudor times. Sadly there is only the west wing intact now the rest having been destroyed by fire. In 1939 the entire estate was requisitioned by the War Office and thousands of trees were blown up to create an airfield for the American Air Force. The surrounding villages are beautiful and well worth a visit.

Our first meeting after the summer break was with Joanne Haywood an actor, singer and member of a very special dementia choir in Halstead. Joanne shared her life story which included the ups and downs she had with her parents as they became older and her mother developed dementia. This led her to join the choir who currently meet in the old Halstead cinema. The group entertain people with mental problems by singing and playing instruments. Joanne said that the joy and reward from seeing people joining in with the music is amazing when they struggle to converse but can remember all the words to their favourite songs. It was an interactive and very touching evening enjoyed by all.

October was magic night – appropriate as it was Halloween month as well. We were wowed by John Richards, a member of the magic circle who had worked in many famous venues and met many famous faces throughout his career. We were told how he became an entertainer combining it with the day job. This was followed by a magic show with the famous tricks that we have all seen on TV. John called upon some of us to assist but despite being extremely close at hand nobody could work out how the illusions worked – great fun with lots of oohs and gasps – lovely evening with a lovely gentleman. On a very cold November night we had seated yoga with Sue Godwin. This was very relaxing with stretches and bends accompanied by soothing music and the calm voice of our instructor.

Diary Dates:

January 21st – Lighting the Fire with Lucy Lewis – a former bomb disposal officer – you will not want to miss this as she is brilliant.

February 18th – Introducing Painting with our local artist Peter Chillingworth.

March 18th – Storytelling through textiles with Tabitha Mitchell-Simons.

Meeting at the Village Hall at 7.30. Visitors £5 includes tea/coffee and homemade cakes.

Finally we would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year for 2026.
Dorothyb.crees@googlemail.com

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE JUST LIKE YOU !



CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL

Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall has been at the heart of our community since the 1920s and it is full of charm, history and beauty.

We are looking for another person to join our friendly team - whether you are interested becoming a Trustee or prefer to be a volunteer, there is a place for you with us.

Please give Glynis a call on 07754 758961 for a chat and find out more

Help us keep our beautiful village hall thriving



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Email: angie.rgn@outlook.com

Chappel Parish Council



Chappel Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers who help the Parish Council look after the village and to wish all its residents a Merry Christmas.

Colchester Local Plan

Colchester City Council's Local Plan Committee agreed to proceed to public consultation on the Preferred Options Draft Colchester Local Plan. This stage of consultation is referred to as the Regulation 18 consultation. As soon as we have more details we will share this on our website and Facebook page.

This will be your opportunity to review the plan and make comments. Please note that there is a proposal for housing both in Chappel (35 houses) and Wakes Colne (200 houses).

On Saturday 6th December, Wakes Colne Parish Council will be holding a drop-in session from 10am-2pm at the Village Hall. Residents from both Chappel & Wakes Colne are very welcome to attend to find out more about what is being proposed.

Chappel & Wakes Colne Survey

Chappel & Wakes Colne Parish Council's would like to hear your view on what you think are the requirements for additional housing and community amenities in the villages. Please see page 7 and enclosed survey flyer for details.

Essex Consultation

The county is moving from 15 district councils to either three, four or five unitary councils.

The deadline is the 11th January. Following the consultation, the government will make the final decision next year about the future model. This is your opportunity to let your views known.

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/essex-southend-on-sea-thurrock/>



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Graham King
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Parish Council Vacancies

We have one vacancy on the Parish Council. Join and make a difference to your local community. If you would be interested in finding out more information on becoming a Councilor, please come along to our next Parish Council meeting or contact the Clerk for further information.

Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings are due to be held on the 8th December & 12th January. These meetings will be held in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

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

Contact details: Website: www.chappel.org

Chappel Parish Council <https://www.facebook.com/ChappelPC/>

Chairman: Sue Chamley Email: sue.chamley@chappel.org

Clerk: Helen Cook Email: parishclerk@chappel.org



Tina's Pet Dog Training

Tina Jones - 07968 725424

Email: tinadogtraining@gmail.com



Check out my reviews on Facebook page @Tina's Pet Dog Training

Outdoor Group Classes (Mount Bures)

- mixed class of puppies, adolescent and adult dogs

1-2-1 Training

- all ages - at owner's home, Mount Bures or mutually agreed venue

Puppy advice

- pre and post puppy arrival - advice and tips especially for 1st time owners

Life Skills, learning boundaries, good manners



Based in Mount Bures



She came round today for a first introduction and wow within a few minutes she got all puppy doing things she hasn't done since I got her. Not only that she's off pointers to work on, since with my new pup, we have booked a 1-2-1 session training class.

Tina has been amazing with our reactive dog Tilda. I was dreading taking Tilda to her first training session, but Tina took control and settled her in so well, I can see improvements in her training every week. It's such a lovely, friendly environment, I would recommend Tina always! Her classes are fun and relaxed, we really enjoy going. Tina loves the dogs and they all love her. She explains



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Wakes Colne Parish Council



Three months have passed since I wrote our last report, starting by explaining why the consultation on the Colchester City Local Plan had been delayed. I can now tell you that at a meeting of the Local Plan Committee on 10th November, it was at last agreed the consultation should go ahead! We are now planning to share with residents what we know of the proposed development for 200 new houses in the field west of the Village Hall. This meeting is likely to have happened by the time you read this, but we want to hear your views to guide us in our response to the Council.

You will be aware of the new SIDs, (Speed Indication Devices), now providing good data on numbers and speed of vehicles on the A1124 outside the Village Hall and Station Road. In addition they are having a significant effect on slowing traffic. Our grateful thanks to Paul Stocker who has been managing this project and has put in a huge amount of time to complete it.

Our congratulations to the Station Adopter Team. Chappel and Wakes Colne Station was one of just six station gardens across the entire UK to be nominated for the National Small Stations Award. Bures Station was also nominated, with Penrith named as the overall winner. Well done to Kath Beck and Alan Cochram for this fantastic achievement.

Exciting to look forward to 2026 when it is hoped we shall join with Chappel to take part in Village in Bloom, with thanks to Nigel Lippiatt for his initiative. We wish him every success!

We have been busy working on our Wakes Colne Parish Council website. Whilst there is still quite a lot of work to be done, please take a look and let us know what you think and, of course, what else you would like to see included.

www.wakescolne-pc.gov.uk

Finally, our Clerk, Nandita Nandi, has decided to follow a new career path which has resulted in her resignation from Wakes Colne PC. We are very grateful to Cllr Denise Stocker for carrying out the duties of temporary Clerk until we can appoint a new permanent Clerk, hopefully sometime in the new year. She is being assisted by Jim Morris, Clerk to White Colne PC in a consultancy role. In the meantime, we wish Nandita every success in her new position in the NHS.

Peter Chillingworth, PC Chairman

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EARLS COLNE'S FIRST BLUE PLAQUE



The Museum was pleased to unveil the first blue plaque to be erected in Earls Colne on 29th October 2025 at Colne House, commemorating philanthropist Mary Gee. An invited guest list of over 70 people from around the county witnessed the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst, unveil the plaque. Our thanks to both Colne House, Kingsey Healthcare and Colne Valley Golf Club for their kind hospitality to make this event so memorable. This tribute forms part of the Women's Blue Plaque scheme, which continues to shine a light on remarkable women whose contributions have too often gone unrecognised.

Colne House (now a care home) was built by Mary Gee about 1840 and she lived there till she died in 1864. Mary, a wealthy widow, was moved by the poverty she witnessed in Earls Colne, Halstead, Greenstead Green and Great Maplestead. She channelled her wealth into transformative community projects. Her philanthropy was both strategic and heart felt, targeting education, housing and spiritual life. Find out more about Mary Gee on the museum's website or scan the QR CODE.



Mary Gee (1795-1864)
A Life of Compassion, Wealth, And Enduring Legacy

Also in October we unveiled four information boards situated in Atlas Community Gardens adjacent to the Museum. These boards tell the story of Earls Colne, The Atlas Works, The Hunt Family and Workers and other Trades.

The Museum is planning three inside talks for the winter season. Details will be circulated on the web page and facebook when finalised.

www.echm.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/earlscolneheritagemuseum>



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Colchester City Council Climate and Environment Scorecards

Huge amounts of information have been gathered and presented in a very user-friendly format on councilclimatescorecards.uk. Clicking on this link enables us to see what climate and environmental action our local and county councils are taking, and to compare with similar local councils and the national average. Braintree is conveniently a very similar council to Colchester so that comparison makes an interesting read.

As it is Christmas, I would like to bring tidings of good cheer, so I've looked for where Colchester is doing well. I put Colchester in the search box offered, selected Braintree from the comparators offered, and scrolled down through the 6 different categories, Buildings and Heating, Transport, Planning and Land Use, Biodiversity, Collaboration and Engagement and Waste Reduction. In Collaboration and Engagement, on one question "Is the council working with external partners or other councils to seek to influence national governments on climate action, or to learn about and share best practice on council climate action?" Colchester was one of only 23% of councils in the country to achieve full marks, Braintree only achieving half marks here. I asked our Councillor, Darius Laws, darius.laws@colchester.gov.uk, if he would like to expand on that, he cites

Regional Collaboration: We actively participate in the Essex Climate Action Commission and other regional networks to align strategies and accelerate progress.

National Influence: Through the Local Government Association and similar bodies, we contribute to consultations and advocate for stronger climate legislation.

Knowledge Sharing: Our officers and members regularly attend workshops and joint projects with other councils to exchange best practices on emissions reduction, biodiversity, and sustainable transport.

Community Partnerships: We collaborate with local businesses, universities, and NGOs to amplify climate initiatives and develop innovation.

That all sounds great but unfortunately I have to pick him up a bit on working with businesses, as in a later question on working with businesses, in the last 2 years Colchester has dropped from full points to no points, while Braintree has upped their game from none to full points. 84% of councils in England got full points here, so perhaps this is something for Colchester to work on.

There is clearly far too much information on this website for me to go into here, but I hope this has been enough to gain interest, and that you will look at the site, both for good news to cheer you, and for areas of improvement you may wish to bring to our Councillor's attention.

If you are looking for easy actions you can take yourself, I recommend those suggested by Prof Jules Pretty of the University of Essex, on our Colne Valley Community Energy Project website www.colnevalleycep.org

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, please get in touch if you have any comments or questions.

Jill Bruce WI Climate Ambassador, Chapel and Wakes Colne WI
jillbruce321@gmail.com

Chappel & Wakes Colne Speed Watch Team

SIDs - Speed Indicator Devices

We now have three SID's: one in Chappel and two in Wakes Colne. Representations continue to be made to the relevant authorities for an additional device to be erected where it is much needed in the Rose Green area.

Data from the existing devices is uploaded to the respective websites so you can see the analysis for yourselves.

www.chappel.org

www.wakescolne-pc.gov.uk



HUGE THANKS to SID volunteers Paul & Martin. You can see them here, turning the direction of the SID display on Station Road. Highways do recommend that the displays are altered periodically as, in some cases, it can help avoid complacency by drivers who use a particular stretch of road regularly.

You may very well have heard of the 20's Plenty campaign. What you may not realise is that this initiative is not just UK centric, it is also reporting huge successes from as far away as Australia.

For those who want to know more about 20's plenty, go to TransportXtra.com where you can book on a free seminar scheduled for the 10th December 2025



SO MANY

of us have 'Dashcams' in our vehicles these days. Unfortunately, quite a few of us have witnessed an example of incredibly dangerous driving.

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Essex Police take this information very seriously and will, where possible, take action. Thank you for helping to make Essex roads safer.

YOU CAN JOIN OUR TEAM TOO ! Every shift does some good because volunteers just being visible, slows traffic down. Even if you can only do one shift a month - it is still so valuable. Full on-line and roadside training is provided and you are never on your own.

Please like our facebook page, Chappel & Wakes Colne Road Safety & CSW to keep up to date with latest information and remember.....

SLOW DOWN Help save a life

Chappel and Wakes Colne Community Speed Watch. Helping our village roads become safer.

LOCATION

Wakes Colne is situated on the A1124 8 miles from Colchester and Halstead. The villages of Chappel and Wakes Colne benefit from a Railway Station, which connects to the Mainline at Marks Tey, Post Office and Public House. From Colchester proceed along the A1124 under the viaduct at Chappel, through the village towards Earls Colne, past Wakes Colne Church and the entrance to the Business Centre will be found on the right-hand side immediately before Wakes Hall.

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