

The Chappel & Wakes Colne

Village Reporter



June to August 2026 Issue no. 129

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

**United Reformed Church
Celebrating 125th Anniversary
of Opening**
See Page 8 & 9 for details



**Housing Needs
Survey Summary
Feedback**
See page 11

**Free Taster Session
Short Mat Bowls
9th and 11th June
In the Village Hall
See Page 2 for details**

The Living Roof Project. New roof added over the bicycle rack, outside the station, 17th April 2026. See page 5 for full story

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 Press date for the September to November 2026 issue - Friday 21st August 2026

LOCAL INFORMATION

Earls Colne Surgery: appointments 01787 222022
Bures Surgery: appointments 01787 227529
County Councillor: Sara Naylor: sara.naylor@colchester.gov.uk
Police Colchester: 01245 491491 non emerg.101 emerg.999
Chappel C of E School: Head: Sarah Griffiths 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 Chair: 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: Chairperson Denise Stocker
denise.stocker@woodbre.co.uk
Village Hall Bookings: Glynis Parker 07761 120948
Earls Colne & District Dog Training Club (Mon 7pm)
Val Sayer 07972 252987

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



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SHORT MAT BOWLS

A Fun, Friendly Sport
for all Ages and Abilities !

FREE TASTER SESSIONS

Tuesday 9 June - 10am-12pm

Thursday 11 June - 10am-12pm

Come along and give it a try !

- No experience needed
- All equipment provided
- Coaching for beginners
- Free refreshments
- Please wear flat, smooth shoes or socks



reserve your place

☎ Barry: 07940 542497

✉ chappel.wakescolne.smbc@gmail.com

Chappel & Wakes Colne

**SHORT MAT
BOWLS
Club**

Chappel and Wakes Colne Village Hall, CO6 2BX

Bee Lines



I am back! A bout of painful illness meant I was unable to contribute to the last edition (someone please say I was missed). However, now on the mend, it is time for me to update you on the fortunes, or otherwise, of the bees.

The winter was not kind to them. Bees can cope well with cold weather, but damp can prove their undoing. As the early part of the year was one of the wettest on record, combined with my inability to devote the necessary time to their upkeep, meant that I found myself facing a dilemma in spring- did I finally call my beekeeping career to an end after fifteen seasons, or did I actively seek new stock with which to proceed with my hobby.

Over the years, I have built up a large array of equipment associated with beekeeping; boxes, extractors, protective clothing and so on. After careful consideration, I decided it was far easier to acquire some more bees than it was to dispose of the bee-associated paraphernalia. So a plan of action was hatched.

On the rare occasions that I have had to purchase bees; I have always tried to source local bees whenever possible. Local bees are used to the climatic conditions of the area and tend to establish themselves more quickly than those that have been imported from other areas of the country. So, an appeal was made to my fellow Colchester beekeepers that I was willing to purchase some of their excess stock, if indeed they had any. Most hobbyist beekeepers are limited in the number of hives they can support, and it is not unusual for them to sell or trade excess colonies from time to time. A couple of weeks passed before my appeal was answered. A chap in Great Bromley was willing to sell me a nuc (small colony) of bees. After a couple of visits to his apiary, the bees were transported home and set up in a hive in my home apiary.

Almost immediately, another chap from Stanway offered to sell me two of his colonies. They were duly collected and installed. I have always considered three hives to be about the number I

like best, as that number more or less guarantees some honey and allows for a winter loss or two without too much alarm. But beekeeping is never simple or straightforward.

The very next day I was offered a swarm from Chappel, hanging from a branch above a metal fence. I have never had much luck with swarms, but I do enjoy collecting them locally. It helps friends and neighbours and prevents the bees from ending up in someone's chimney stack or cavity wall. It was a very simple collection, completed in a few minutes.

I was now presented with another problem. Whilst my main apiary could take several hives, due to its under occupancy these last few years, much of it was overgrown with brambles and nettles. Some gardening was required.

Pictured on the right, was the solution. Suitably attired in my spare bee suit (a precaution I felt necessary at the time, although the bees themselves were remarkably well behaved), my young neighbour performed heroically for an hour or so, beating back the vegetation and clearing space for several more hives.

So, at the time of writing, I am now the proud owner of five colonies of bees. (for those of you mathematically inclined, I forgot to mention that one hive did survive the winter).

On a recent inspection, three hives appear to be thriving, although the other two are taking a little time to become fully established, I am reasonable hopeful of a decent honey harvest this year, although this depends on the weather to a certain extent, and to the success or otherwise of the local borage crop.

All, hopefully, will be revealed in the next issue, Wish me luck!

Your bee correspondent, The Old Drone



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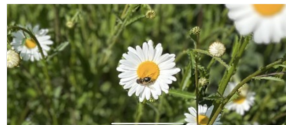
Chappel Millennium Green

As I sit writing this latest article for the Village Reporter, it is a bright, sunny afternoon in late May and the outside temperature is 29 degrees C. Looking out through the open French doors from my position of cool shade, the bird song is wonderful and the still air is carrying fine cotton-like white fluff from the female willow trees. I am reliably informed, the silky down acts as a parachute, carrying tiny seeds far and wide, including through the open doors and into our home.



When you next visit The Green, you may notice we have been refreshing some of the shingle footpaths particularly below the upper playing field. We are very grateful to Roger and Ross Baron for their expertise in carrying out this work. They scraped the surface to expose the original path edging, compacted new additional hoggin and applied fresh shingle.

Hawthorn blossom, both white and pink have been adorning the Green for weeks now along side the annual display of Cow Parsley and Ox-eye Daisies. Spring maintenance in the Community Orchard was completed in March. All the fruit trees received feed and a barrowload of mulch each. My special thanks to Shirley and David, Deborah and Bruce, Alan and Nick, ably assisted by our 'Orchard Guardian' Vicky. Special thanks must also go to Harry Chamley for moving the bulk of the mulching bark with his tractor which certainly made the overall task much easier. With all this attention on the orchard, we are hoping for a bumper crop of fruit in late summer, to be enjoyed by members of our community and visitors to the Green.



The Millennium Green Committee members have been discussing the possibility of creating a small wild flower area near to the orchard. We understand this could significantly boost crop yields and fruit quality by attracting a higher diversity and volume of beneficial insects. The hope is, it will provide crucial habitat for pollinators and natural pest predators. If you would like to be involved in this initiative please make contact with us, our email address is at the end of this article.

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 £25.00. Recent prize winners are as follows:
March 2026 Draw Ticket Number 122 – Teresa Thorogood £50.00
March 2026 Draw Ticket Number 77 – Silvia Huntley £25.00
April 2026 Draw Ticket Number 119 – Michael Groves £50.00
April 2026 Draw Ticket Number 127 – Nigel Lippiatt £25.00
May 2026 Draw – Ticket Number 111 – Brian Moore £50.00
May 2026 Draw – Ticket Number 27 – Jan Neubauer £25.00
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, Peter Neubauer, Chairman. Chappel Millennium Green Trust.

Email: chappelmillenniumgreen@gmail.com

CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE WOMENS INSTITUTE

A most informative and relaxing evening was enjoyed by all in February when we had a tutorial with local artist Peter Chillingworth. We learnt how a painting is created from a blank sheet of paper. When drawing a landscape you have to find "the vanishing point" from which the rest of the picture is put into perspective – how many of us knew that! Peter showed us different materials used in art from the traditional water colours to the latest water-based oils. This is a very immersive hobby which makes you appreciate intricate detail of subjects and also the huge range of shades derived from the base colours. Peter brought several of his wonderful art works all demonstrating his very versatile talent.

Our March meeting was a very unusual subject entitled "Story telling through Textiles" presented by Tabatha Mitchel-Simons who has a degree in Art, Design and Textiles. The theme for the evening was how Tabatha created a story in her mind of two sisters who discovered a box in the attic of their family home containing treasures from their childhood. This story was transposed by Tabatha making the treasures in materials and making them look really old. Two rag dolls were made for example, and were painstakingly aged, distressed and looked as if they had been in a box for years. The whole project we were told was submitted for Tabatha's degree and earned her a first with distinction – what a clever lady!

Our WI not being traditional in subject matter chose for the April meeting an evening of scandal, murder and many other nefarious deeds associated with being a royal mistress. Our presentation was given by Katie Cole entitled appropriately enough – "Royal Mistresses". What an insight it proved to be and included some of our notorious mistresses back in history and also some from France, Portugal, Spain and Russia. Way back Henry 1st had twenty-one illegitimate children – none of whom ever benefitted from having the king as a father. William the Conqueror was illegitimate himself and did not have a mistress as he was happy with his wife – so many tales we were told – some were very sad especially those that were genuine love stories. The French, notorious for their courts even had an official Royal Mistress role. Spain and Portugal were famous for their marriage alliances for political reasons which meant that the kings always had a mistress. The Russian court was also famous but some of the stories were not true and created to discredit persons involved. Back in England we had Nell Gwynn – mistress of Charles 2nd – who was much loved by the people as she was from a poor background and did not forget her roots. So many mistresses through the centuries, so many children born out of wedlock – the moral of the story was that if the king died before you that was the end – any land, titles, children and protection you had been given was instantly taken away and in many cases you were disposed of as well! May was our AGM and after the completion of business we enjoyed a social time with a buffet spread to finish the meeting.

Dates for your Diary:

June 17th – Stunts: Highs and Lows with Lucy Allen

July 15th - Fraud Prevention with Tammy Blest

August Outing

September 16th – Trends of a Decade with Amanda Sutherland

As always, all welcome visitors £5 includes cakes and refreshments in the village hall at 7.30 dorothyb.crees@googlemail.com

Chappel and Wakes Colne Station Adopters

April 17th 2026 was a magical day, one to remember, at the station. The sun shone, and it was warm. We welcomed the youngest children from the school who were about to carry out a mini beast hunt in our small nature reserve. We thanked all those who had financed and supported the construction of the living roof over the bicycle rack, and the installation of the stag beetle pyramid. As always, we celebrated with tea, coffee and cake!

The living roof project, with accompanying water feature, is a first on the Greater Anglia Network, improving facilities for cyclists and encouraging wild life at the same time. It was achieved in partnership with Greater Anglia, and was funded through grants from the Community Rail Network, the Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership, Councillor Sunnucks Community Fund and the Essex Local Nature Recovery Project. The roof contains drought-resistant sedum plants, and insect houses. Once established the plants will create an important habitat for bees and butterflies. The water feature

contains plants chosen especially for their attraction to bees, hoverflies and small aquatic creatures. We have put up signs to help visitors identify the bees and butterflies they observe, as well as animals that live in the locality. We are pleased to say, more cyclists are taking advantage of having a dry space to park their bicycles.



Finding the correct wood to build the stag beetle pyramid has proved a challenge. Who knew they were so fussy about the wood they prefer to live in? Blake Tree Care came to our rescue. Staff knew exactly the type of wood we needed and kindly donated it. Al and Flo have constructed a palace and we sincerely hope the beetles come to live in it.

At the time of writing the first flush of spring flowers, white and purple violets, cowslips, daffodils, narcissi, tulips and grape hyacinths are dying away. Cow Parsley is out. Snow in Summer is in bloom along with rosemary, wallflowers, violas, curry plants, and many types of sedums in the planters on the platform. We have summer flowers growing in the greenhouse. When the conditions are right, we will plant Mexican sunflowers, million bells, and cosmos, which bees really like, to bring more colour to the garden.

We have sown wildflowers in many areas of the station. We are keeping our fingers crossed they will grow, but we need a little rain to help them to germinate. The summer will no doubt keep us busy watering the plants, while also keeping an eye out for the many small creatures that live at our station. If you have a little spare time and would like to join us, please let us know.



teyfields@gmail.com

Kath Beck and Al Cochram Station Adopters

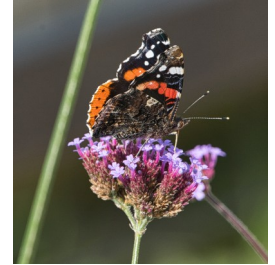
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Any queries please contact
Val Sayer on 01206 240328

Nature Notes May 2026

Star birds of the winter were three drake Smew at Abberton in January. It's a regular winter duck there, usually a drake and a few females, arriving later than other ducks around mid-December. I've never seen more than one of the spectacular white and black drakes there, so three together was a great start to the year.

I've begun going to Copt Hall marshes these days. Good parking, good access to the sea walls, and good birds. At a late March visit, around 200 Brent Geese were noisy and fidgety, seemingly packing up to get ready for their journey north for their Siberian summer. There's usually a Barn Owl there too, emerging in the early evening to hunt along the hedgerows.

Butterflies have been quite visible. Brimstone was in my garden on 5th March with a Peacock and a couple of weeks afterwards a Red Admiral. But Orange Tip has been less numerous.



Our House Martins have returned, bang on schedule with the first arriving on 10th April and numbers building to the usual 7-8 nests under the roof eaves. But this year I missed much of the spring arrivals because of a trip to the Greek island of Lesbos hard up against Turkey, and famed as the migration hot-spot of the Eastern Med.

So famed that it attracts thousands of birdwatchers. It was during the 3.5 hour flight that I realised that at least half the packed plane were birdwatchers, and that started me idly thinking about birdwatching costs and benefits.

Not in the usual sense of well-being, knowledge for the sake of knowledge, protecting the environment, ecology or whatever. These aspects are what I'd call the intangibles, big benefits but very hard to measure. What I mused about during the flight were the measurables, the tangible benefits.

Let's talk money. Essex Wildlife Trust's total income in 2024 was £9.95 million, up a bit from £9.2 million the year before, and most of this was directed to spending on maintaining the reserves network and visitors' centres. Not a trivial sum.

The RSPB has done several studies looking at the direct economic benefits to the island from the reintroduction of White-Tailed Sea Eagles on Mull. The most recent one, and which got a lot of publicity, was done five years ago. It found that tourism directly linked to people coming to see the birds as part of their visit contributes between £5-£8 million per year to the Mull economy, and supports between 100-150 jobs. (The 2022 study is at <https://raptorpersecutionuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/wt-eagles-economics-report-mull-march-28-2022.pdf> and well worth a quick read)

Impressive numbers and all down to an impressive bird. They have spread beyond Scotland now and are great wanderers, especially in the winter. One was seen in Norfolk last winter, for instance. So if you look up and see something the size and shape of a front door circling overhead, then it's more than likely to be a Sea Eagle. I've never seen one in the UK, although have done so several times in Scandinavia, but they are increasingly around.

From a quick search, I could find nothing about Lesbos except that 9000 birdwatchers visit per year, and mostly in the six weeks April to mid-May for the famous spring migration.

So I made a few guesses and assumptions on length of visit, daily spend on hotels, eating, car hire and so on. I think that the 9000 figure is plausible: certainly, touring around the island there were birdwatchers on every corner, in every café, at every lake, and the majority were Brits. I came up with something between €8-10 million, all that concentrated in these six spring weeks. This has the added benefit of extending the season for the hotels, because the main season does not begin until June.

And then there's the equipment: the binoculars, telescopes and cameras with big lenses. Judging from snippets overheard on the plane and at passport control, I reckoned that probably half the passengers were birdwatchers. All would have high-end binoculars, two or three would be sharing a decent telescope, one in every three or four would have a big camera. Adding this all up, I think there was £400k of high-grade optical glass on that plane. Big numbers. Birds mean business.

Tony Witcher

Property Column

The UK property market in 2026 is best described as **resilient but rebalancing**, with steady price growth, improving affordability, and more selective buyer demand shaping activity across the country.

Nationally, house prices are forecast to rise modestly by around **1–4% this year**, with Rightmove predicting circa **2% growth** as the market stabilises after recent volatility. Average UK property values have recently surpassed **£300,000**, underlining long-term price strength despite economic pressures. However, this is no longer a boom market—growth is being driven by **wage increases, stabilising mortgage rates, and improved lending conditions**, rather than speculative demand.

Buyer behaviour has shifted notably. Demand is currently softer year-on-year, reflecting higher borrowing costs over the past 18 months. At the same time, affordability is gradually improving as wages rise and lenders adapt criteria, creating a more balanced, needs-driven market where pricing strategy is critical.

Looking ahead, the outlook is more uncertain than many anticipated at the start of the year. While there had been expectations of interest rate cuts in 2026, this is now far from guaranteed. Ongoing global economic pressures—including inflationary risks, geopolitical instability, and slower growth—mean rates could remain **higher for longer**, which may continue to influence buyer confidence and borrowing capacity in the short term.

For villages such as **Chappel & Wakes Colne**, these national trends translate into continued strength at a local level. Rural and semi-rural Essex markets remain undersupplied, and lifestyle-driven buyers—particularly London movers—are still prioritising **space, connectivity and quality of life**. In a more price-sensitive market, well-presented homes in desirable village locations continue to outperform.

In summary, 2026 is shaping up to be a “**sensible market**”—characterised by modest growth, realistic pricing, and strong performance in lifestyle locations like Chappel & Wakes Colne.

Mark Quinn - TAUk.

I am an experienced Personal Estate Agent with many reviews and competitive fees. I live locally and would be delighted to help if you are selling or looking for property. Call me on **01206 584 145** or email mark.quinn@theagencyuk.com

Colne Valley Art Group

I am pleased to announce that our annual exhibition will take place on **Saturday 19th September** 10.00 am to 3.30 pm in **Chappel and Wakes Colne Village Hall**

We welcome entries from non-members. Full details in the next Village Reporter

Peter Chillingworth

Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall

What's On

Tue 9th Jun &
Thu 11th Jun
10am

Short-Mat Bowls
FREE taster sessions
☎ Barry 07940 542497

Sat 19 Sept
10am

Art Exhibition
☎ Peter 01206 240230

Sun 4th Oct
5pm

The Phantom of Friar Street
Common Ground Theatre Co.
👉 Details to follow

Sun 11th Oct
2.30pm

Colne Endeavour Concert Band
In aid of All Saints Church
☎ Val 07972 252987

Sat 17th Oct
10am

Autumn Craft Fair
☎ Glynis 07754 758961

Regular Clubs

for details of our regular Art Group; Tai-Chi; Yoga and W.I. clubs Please see the events calendar on our website www.chappelandwakescolnevillagehall.co.uk

bookings: ☎ Glynis **07761 120948**

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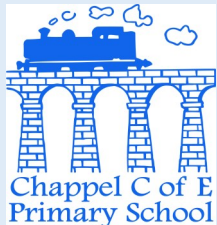
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NGS Open Gardens
Oak Farm, Wakes Colne
Once again, our garden in Vernons Road is opening in aid of the NGS nursing charities. Our early events have been well supported, and we shall be opening again on Sunday 14th June, 19th July and 6th September, 2.00 to 5.00 pm.



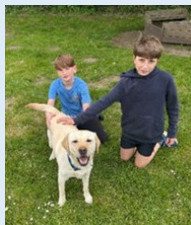
Peter and
Ann Chillingworth



I can't quite believe as I write this we are heading into our final term of the year. We have been busy as always here. We started our new term by celebrating Earth Day. The Life Ambassadors led a Collective Worship all about Earth Day and the children had a special themed lunch. We were lucky enough this term to welcome two new peripatetic music teachers this term. They are teaching children Ukulele, guitar and piano. The children love it! Squirrels class visited St Barnabus church and had a wonderful time learning all about the features. They were lucky enough to visit when the new window had been fitted.

The school have introduced a new 'Special person's lunch'. The children could invite someone who is special to them to come and have lunch in the school. Everyone really enjoyed Mrs Edward's amazing roasts!

We continue to have the pleasure of Daphne the therapy dog visiting us every week with her owner Judith. Their visits are so invaluable to the children who enjoy spending time with Daphne. They read to her, play games or just sit and talk. She is always a great listener!



As always if you would like to arrange a tour of the school or for any further information, please contact the school office 01787 222296/ admin@chappel.essex.sch.uk or visit chappel.essex.sch.uk.

Mrs Sarah Griffiths Deputy Head Teacher

The reason the grasses, herbs and flowers grow so fast in late spring / early summer is so that they can out compete the animals that would eat them. The grazers and the browsers. They need to produce flowers and be pollinated fast so that they can reproduce. That is why this time of year is also crucial for our pollinators and if you can learn to love and understand why we need verges and lawns to be full of Speedwell, Dandelions and Daisies, Cow Parsley and Campion then we can really help to restore our rapidly declining insect population on which we depend for food and which are all key in supporting the myriad of animals further up in the food chain. Dandelions, probably the most reviled of the above, are astonishing plants. That root is made for tough soil. Its role is to break up the soil, aerating it and allowing water to penetrate. Then it pulls essential minerals like magnesium and phosphate from deeper in the ground to the upper soil levels. Other plants can then access the minerals they need and when we then eat these plants or their fruit we benefit from the trace minerals too.



JORDAN'S FARM

The inventions of our species have enabled us in the last 50 years to cut down and destroy plants like never before. So, if you can begin to think differently about the flowers and plants in your lawn please do. Begin by reserving an area and just allow it to grow longer. Trim around the edge with the mower, make it look neat. Cut a path through to a seating area in the middle. Just let it grow and thrive and it will quickly become a home to many beautiful weeds and insects. The longer the grass the greener too. The temperature at the base of the grass is much lower if the grass is longer; a longer lawn will retain more moisture in the ground for the other plants in our garden. It's a win win!

Alex Stevenson

Jordans Farm annual wildflower survey on Monday the 15th of June all volunteers welcome and will be rewarded with cake. The next rewilding Walk and Talk will be Saturday 11th of July 3.30pm - 5.50pm See website for details www.jordansfarm.co.uk jordansfarmwakescolne@gmail.com



2026 season is now underway

Firstly, a huge thank you to the Parish Council for their kind donation towards our brand-new scoreboard, replacing one that was very much in need of retirement. It's fantastic to see this support for the club.

Our new playing kits have also started to arrive, alongside support from our new sponsors. It's brilliant to see both local and national companies backing the club so keep an eye out for the new kit on your travels this summer!

On the field, it's been a mixed start to the season for our 3 hardball teams, but there are plenty of positive signs, strong performances, and exciting moments.

Our ladies' softball teams soon begin their outdoor campaigns, and after the success and growth we've seen over recent seasons, we're looking forward to another fantastic summer for the group.

Our junior sections are also now getting underway, with another huge number of young players taking part across the age groups. It's fantastic to see so many children enjoying their cricket and continuing to develop their skills in such a positive environment.

There's a great atmosphere around the club, and we're confident there's plenty more to come as the season develops.

Finally, we are always looking for new players, volunteers, scorers, umpires, coaches, helpers, and supporters of all ages from 0 to 99! Whether you're an experienced player, completely new to cricket, or simply want to get involved around the club, there's never been a better time to join us.

Here's to a successful and enjoyable season for everyone involved!

Want to know more
Call Joyce 07530 545204
Call Dan 07525 593968



CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE CRICKET CLUB



CHANGES TO COLCHESTER'S WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS wef 1st June 2026

Scan this QR Code to find out about changes to recycling



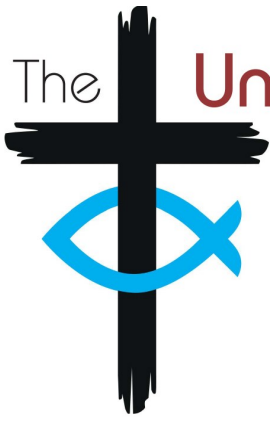
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Wakes Colne Parish Council

Download your calendar



The United Reformed Church in Chappel

Rose Green, Colchester Road (A1124), Chappel, Nr Colchester, Essex CO6 2AB

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



MINISTER: Vacant

SECRETARY: Anthony R Percival
Peace Villa, Colchester Road,
Chappel, Colchester, Essex CO6 2DE.
Tel (01206) 240442
Email: arpchapel@btinternet.com

TREASURER: Valerie Dent
Watch House Cottage, Station Road,
Wakes Colne, Colchester, Essex
CO6 2DS.
Tel 01787 220147
Email: valeriedent1947@gmail.com

The Chapel, the Viaduct – Our Village Heritage

by the Rev'd Charles Martin – a retired URC Minister

An unmarried cousin in his forties came to visit us from Australia before the Covid pandemic struck. He is a very interesting man, highly qualified in a number of fields. He is fascinating to listen to, but sadly he has difficulty in finding the pause button. One day however, I found something that left him speechless.

Driving to Colchester, we passed under the viaduct at Chappel. As we did so, he was struck dumb! He had never seen such a huge structure made of bricks in his life. Some folk may regard the viaduct as a blot on the landscape, but not me. Ever afterwards, as I drive under it, I offer a little prayer of thanksgiving for the ingenuity of the people who built it!

little community to join with the congregation both at the Village Hall and the Chapel itself on that day.

The Summer months of June, July and August promise longer days and maybe, if we have the right amount of sunshine and rain, time to relax and enjoy the place where we live. Our village is in such a beautiful part of the country.

It's easy to forget that even bricks and mortar can bring an unexpected blessing. The joy and fellowship of a worshipping community is also a reason for thanksgiving, so if you have time, come and join us on 22 August. You will be more than welcome.

Preachers in June, July and August

On Sundays at 6.30pm

URC unless indicated

JUNE

- 7 William Glasse
- 14 Rev'd Charles Martin
- 21 Canon Roy Tricker *CofE*
- 28 Rev'd Jenny Martin

JULY

- 5 TBA
- 12 Ian Hardie
- 19 William Glasse
- 26 Rev'd Dr Janet Tollington

AUGUST

- 2 Carol Nicholson
- 9 Rev'd Andrew Royal
- 16 Rev'd Sharon Quilter *CofE*
- 23 William Glasse
- 30 Rev'd Dr Martin Camroux

Something else in our community for which I am grateful, is the 'Chapel in Chappel', which will be celebrating its 125th anniversary on Saturday 22 August. More details of the celebrations will be advertised nearer the date, but there is a warm invitation to everyone in our

Our 125th Anniversary Celebrations Saturday, Sunday 22-23 August

Saturday 3pm Celebration Tea at the Village Hall

5.30pm at the Chapel - Hymn singing and talk '*Christian Dissent Past and Present*' by the Rev'd Dr Robert Pope (Lecturer in Church History at Westminster College, Cambridge)

NB: Parking at the Village Hall for both functions

Sunday 6.30pm Anniversary Service at the Chapel led by William Glasse

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

Chappel's own 'Community of Dissent'

From the 16th century, the early Protestant Nonconformist groups – Baptist, Independents (Congregational), Presbyterian and a little later Quakers were collectively known as 'Dissenters.' Methodists did not arrive on the scene until the latter part of the 18th century. The early Protestant nonconformists alongside Catholics suffered greatly for their faith.

Freedom of conscience has always been at the centre of Christian Nonconformity and it is to the witness and sufferings of the early Nonconformists that we owe much of what we now mean by freedom and which underlies our concept of democracy.

By the time the Congregational Church in Chappel came into being in 1901, the current term 'Free Churches' was generally the collective title used for the various nonconformist denominations.



The Church here opened in August 1901

This resulted from nine local residents meeting together, *'... acting on behalf of a general opinion prevailing in our midst, are of unanimous opinion that the time has come for the immediate commencement of definite Christian effort along Free Church lines in this place'* quoting a letter sent to the Rev'd D H Jones, minister of nearby Fordham Congregational Church* and recorded in our earliest Church Minutes dated 11 April 1901.

No time was lost it seems as a redundant former builders' store was rented and adapted to serve as a chapel – the same building now known today as the United Reformed Church. The Chapel, together with additional land was bought in the 1920's and the adjoining Meeting Room, kitchen and toilet were added. The Trust Deeds were deposited with the former Essex Congregational Union in 1926.

The years 1890-1914 – The Nonconformist Heyday?

Our Chapel opened during what is generally acknowledged to be the peak of Nonconformist influence. Most Free Church denominations were experiencing unprecedented growth. The Nonconformist conscience was a force to be reckoned with in political life and its influence pervaded many other areas of public life.

Now looking forward . . .

Despite today's challenges Chappel's small, but loyal 'Dissenting' congregation, continues holding on and the Chapel remains open. We celebrate the 125th Anniversary rejoicing that we still offer meaningful worship at 6.30pm on Sundays, reputedly good hymn singing and organ music, as well as supporting various charities and organising ad hoc social occasions.

More local support is needed if the worship and witness of this Church over the last 125 years is to continue.

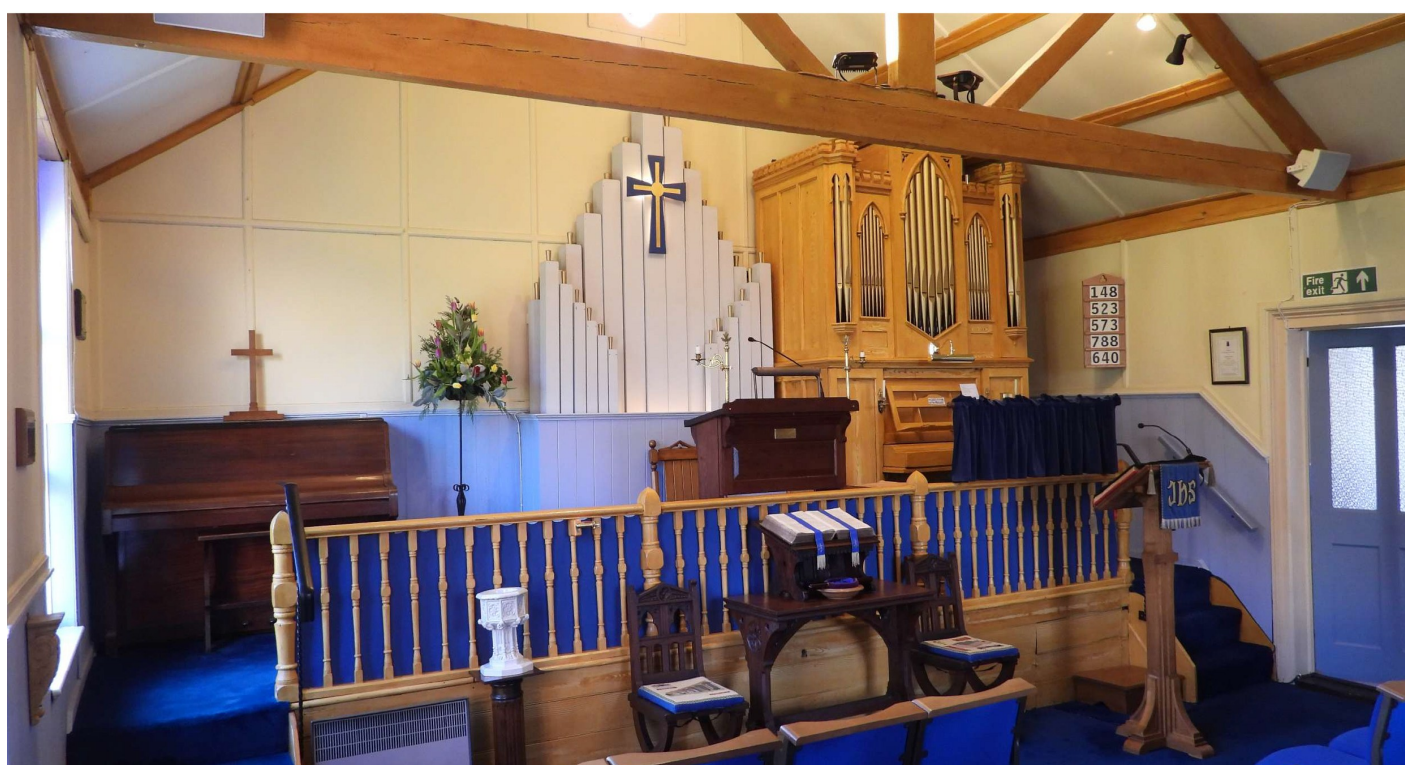
Editorial content: Anthony Percival

1972 we became a United Reformed Church

In 1972 a Scheme of Union was drawn up between the Congregational Church in England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church in England to form the UNITED REFORMED CHURCH to which Chappel's Congregational Church gave ascent, and became part of this newly formed denomination.

The historic pipe organ was installed in 1989 having been rescued from a redundant church. It was completely restored in 2019.

* Fordham Congregational Chapel closed early 1970's. It was originally a 'Countess of Huntingdon Connexion' Chapel, and is now in domestic use.





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
Treasurer: Richard Bareham, tel 07977 111817, email: wccpcctreasurer@gmail.com

Dear Readers,

I cannot believe that the last three months have gone in a blink since our last magazine came out. The church was incredibly busy in the lead up to Easter Day with many special services taking place amongst our four church benefice, such a very special time in our church calendar with the great celebration of Jesus' rising from the dead and being taken up to eternal life. It is a story retold every year but it never loses its wonder that, Jesus died for us on the cross, he gave his life for each and everyone of us, truly amazing.

The school had the excitement of a real donkey coming to school, where Emma and I did a short enactment of Palm Sunday with the children waving Palm crosses behind the donkey leading them on in a procession, such great fun. The school also held an Easter Service at the church where each class made an Easter garden which were displayed on the altar. The church was packed with parents and grandparents watching their children perform songs, readings and artwork reflecting on Easter, very special.

Baby Edie was baptised on Palm Sunday, another great joy for our church. Reverend Mark Payne took the service at Chappel church, and we are truly grateful for all he does to help us when we are still in the situation where we have no priest. Our advertisements have not yielded any applicants to date so we just continue to hope that someone will have a calling to our parish. We have had one funeral at Wakes, a lady from Inworth Lane named Barbara Lilian Emslie, it was a special celebration of her life and our thoughts turn to David her son and Ruth her daughter in their loss. She is now resting in peace in our beautiful All Saints churchyard.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and please note if anyone needs me I am available to help anyone that needs medicines, to get to appointments, for home communion or any other matter contact me on 07748968083 the church is there for you all.

Blessings to you all

Christine Maskell Church warden of Chappel and Wakes Colne churches

PS. I forgot to mention our wonderful new church website created by Richard Harris, our grateful thanks to him, please take a look, there is so much information about our two history churches.

<https://www.wakescolnechappelchurches.org.uk/>

CHURCH SERVICES

June 7th Morning Worship 10 am Chappel Church
June 28th Benefice Communion 10 am Chappel Church
July 5th Morning Worship 10 am Chappel Church
July 26th Benefice Communion 2pm Chappel Church
The July dates are likely to be at Chappel due to repairs on Wakes Colne ceiling, if they are completed the July dates could change to Wakes
August 2nd Morning Worship 10 am Chappel church
August 23rd Benefice Communion 10 am Chappel Church



St. Barnabas Church ,Chappel



All Saints Church, Wakes Colne

Welcoming porches



Hilda May Curtis

31st January 1925—22nd February 2026

Hilda had a long and busy life, and lived in Chappel for over 60 years, before she went into full time care in 2016. Hilda was an active member of the local Women's Institute, she was also for some years involved in delivering meals on wheels to local residents. She was a keen gardener and walker. She loved animals and always had her dog with her when out walking. Hilda leaves behind 4 children, 3 stepchildren, 12 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

MOBILE LIBRARY

Visits Swan Grove, Chappel,
1.45 to 2.15pm

(Note: sometimes the van arrives early)
Next dates: Tuesday 10th June, 1st and 22nd July and 12th August

Housing Needs Survey: Chappel & Wakes Colne

Summary Feedback

Dear Resident,

The results of the Housing Needs Survey carried out at the end of last year have been put together in pie and bar graph format as below:

Thank you very much for your time and participation.

Chappel Parish Council and Wakes Colne Parish Council

Housing Needs Survey:

Chappel & Wakes Colne

101 Responses 08:40 Average time to complete Active Status

1. Do you live in Chappel?

Yes 41
No 60



2. Do you live in Wakes Colne?

Yes 60
No 41



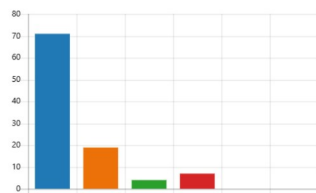
3. What is your current housing situation?

Owner Occupation 99
Private Tenant 1
Housing Association Tenant 0
Living Rent Free 1



4. What type of property do you live in?

Detached 71
Semi-Detached 19
Terraced 4
Single Storey 7
Flat 0



5. How many bedrooms are there in your home?

1-2 13
3-4 71
5 or more 17



6. How many under 18 year olds live in your home?

101 Responses

Latest Responses
"2"
"0"
"0"

7. How many 18-21 year olds live in your home?

101 Responses
"1"
"0"
"0"

8. How many 22-54 year olds live in your home?

101 Responses
Latest Responses
"2"
"0"
"0"

9. How many over 65 year olds live in your home?

101 Responses
Latest Responses
"0"
"2"
"2"

10. Are you planning on expanding your family in the next 5 years?

Yes 6
No 95



11. Is it possible that members of your family will leave home in the next 5 years?

Yes 20
No 81



12. Are you planning to move in the next 5 years?

Yes 20
No 81



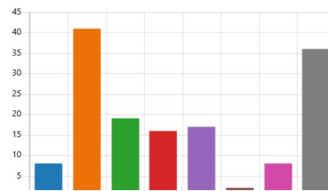
13. If you are planning on moving, would you like to stay in Chappel or Wakes Colne?

Yes 32
No 10
Not planning On moving 59



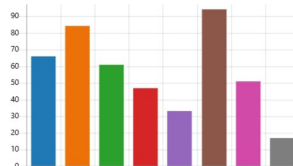
14. Why would you move home (pick up to 5 options)

Need for a larger home 8
Need to downsize 41
Present home too costly to run 19
Need easier access and mobility 16
Need to be close to public transport 17
Existing home in poor condition 2
Not in a desired location 8
Other 36



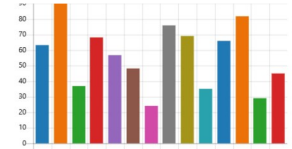
15. What do you think are the most important features of a home? (Tick all that apply)

Energy efficiency 66
Parking 84
Close to public transport 61
Modern facilities 47
Accessibility features 33
A garden 94
Living close to family and friends 51
Other 17



16. What do you think are the most beneficial amenities in Chappel & Wakes Colne (tick all that apply)

Village Hall 63
Post Office 98
Churches 37
The Swan Public House 68
Footpaths and lighting 57
Playground 48
Mobile Library 24
Millennium Green 76
School 69
Cricket Club 35
Bus stops 66
Train Station 82
Station Museum 29
Local Taxi Company 45



17. What new or enhanced amenities do you think are needed in Chappel & Wakes Colne if more houses were to be built in the villages?

101 Responses
Latest Responses
"Skate park to give the kids something to do"
"Footpaths, lighting, parking, water drainage, road safety, ..."
"Pedestrian crossing at Rose Green on Colchester Road"

18. Do you think there is a need for more of the following house types in the villages? (tick all that apply)

1/2 bed homes 41
2/3 bed homes 39
4/5 bed homes 18
Single storey homes 48



19. Does anyone in your household or wider family have a requirement for Affordable Local Housing?

Yes 9
No 92



20. Do you think that there should be more traffic calming intervention on the roads, within the villages?

20mph limit zone 70
Road humps/chicanes 49
Vehicle activated signs 56
Residential zones 49
Others 24



21. Any other comments

67 Responses
Latest Responses
"With all the unsold houses in the local area why is there a..."
"The proposed developments would completely ruin the vil..."

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VILLAGES IN BLOOM

Hi Everyone,

Villages in Bloom has finally kicked off, we have planted up our first ever display troughs during the last couple of weekends. We survived a cold week, and our plants have started to blossom, poking their heads above the parapet to taste the fresh air.

Our wonderful volunteers planted up 22 troughs with 330 plants over two days, hard work but great fun and an amazing sense of achievement once finished. We planted Salvias, various Geraniums and Calibrachoa (Million Bells) which will grow and bloom with colour and fill the air with fragrance.

Now the harder work begins, watering, weeding and the general care to make the most of our displays with the anticipation that our efforts will brighten up the villages with colour and bring a smile to the faces of the community and passers-by.



This is only the beginning; our next project is to start planning for the Autumn planting which should be around September with a range of different plants getting us to Spring next year. After that we want to increase the number of sites we have to encompass more of the villages and hopefully encourage more residents to join us. Our target is to get to competition standard and enter Anglia in Bloom with the aim to win and bring everyone's attention to what Chappel and Wakes Colne can offer. We have an amazing Viaduct, a beautiful Millenium Green, an historic Railway Museum, a superb Village Hall, a super pub and fantastic surrounding countryside.



However, none of this would be possible without the support of our volunteers and the vital support of our backers and sponsors.

We would like to thank both Parish Councils and Councillors Lewis Barber and William Sunnick for their assistance and help in getting this project off the ground. Deans Nursery for their guidance, James Chamley and Simon Kemp for donating soil, IHT Airconditioning and Direct Transportation

for the pallets we used to make the planters and Martin Blackwell of Blackwell & Co, Master Butchers and Curers for their kind sponsorship.

As I said this is only the beginning, if you would like to join us and bring your ideas, we would only be so happy to see you, our next meeting is on 18th June at 7pm in the Committee Room at the Village Hall. In the meantime, if you have any comments or would like to sponsor our efforts, please feel free to contact me

at nigel.lippiatt@yahoo.com or call on 07400 378512

kindest regards, Nigel Lippiatt



The Challenge of Farming with Climate Change in Chappel. "We haven't got any answers"

I've just had a fascinating conversation with Roger Barron, of Pattocks Farm, Chappel, really bringing home the current reality of the changes we already see in the Chappel climate, and how it is, and will, affect our lives.

Roger's father bought a smaller version of his farm in 1946, when it was 180 acres (75 hectares). More land has been acquired over those 80 years, and it's now grown to 500 hectares. Roger is still planting many of the crops that his father would have grown, a rotation of winter wheat, his staple crop, with rape for industrial use, removing static from plastic bags, potatoes, borage for pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, and more recently the hopefully drought resistant quinoa, for human consumption, but under ever more challenging circumstances.

He says "15-20 years ago we got April showers, but now almost all our rain falls in the winter months. I planted quinoa mid-April, when rain was promised, but there's been so little rain the tiny amount of growth the seeds have produced has been eaten by flea beetles. Of 6 fields three quarters have been lost. Growing crops without moisture is difficult, but irrigation is expensive, so is only used on high value root crops, such as sugar beet, onions and potatoes." He no longer grows peas and beans as they no longer make a profit.

There's a long wait for return on investment, taking 18 months with wheat from buying and sowing seed till crops are harvested and ready to sell, and now there is no guarantee seeds will germinate if our April showers fail, meaning he has lost the money on seed sown and work doing that, with no return at all. Supermarkets control standards for crops, with contracts being signed far in advance of knowing what the yield will be with the ever-increasing uncertainty of changing weather patterns, creating more financial jeopardy for farmers. If there is a crop that would germinate in cold and wet, or dry, conditions, that would be a solution, but Roger hasn't been able to find anything that will flourish in our new climate.

When we pick up our food from supermarket shelves it's easy to forget how dependent we are on the crops Roger, and other farmers like him, grow for us, and how dependent those crops are on the weather. Roger's father could rely on April showers, but now the ground goes from cold and waterlogged to dry and cracked too quickly for seed to germinate. Inevitably smaller yields don't just mean harder times for farmers, the price for us goes up when supply goes down so we will all end up paying more for our local food.

Roger has tried to find a solution to this problem which affects him deeply, and will affect us all in food price inflation, but the lack of rain when the ground has warmed enough to sow, the cost of irrigation, and the tight financial margins forced on farmers by supermarkets trying to keep consumer prices down to stay competitive, are summed by him in the phrase "We haven't got any answers".

Jill Bruce, jillbruce321@gmail.com



Supposedly drought tolerant quinoa struggling to grow on Roger Barron's farm in Chappel, during the dry spring of 2026. Roger says "Slow growing plants get demolished"

Chappel Parish Council



Water on the A1124

Chappel Parish Councillors have been investigating the water running onto the A1124. We believe that this is down to tree roots blocking a drain pipe. Further investigation is taking place with Highways.

Play Area

Chappel Parish Council have now secured funding to replace the infant play module and work will be commencing once all the paperwork is processed and signed.

Allotment Plot Vacancy

Allotment plots currently available to rent, please contact the Parish Clerk for further information.



Speed Watch

Chappel Parish Council would like to thank our volunteers on Speed Watch. We would like to invite any interested residents to join them helping to make our roads through our village a safer place.

**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**

CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2026 THIS REPORT COVERS THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2025 to 31ST MARCH 2026

Myself, Peter, Nick, Amber, Patrick and Nigel have continued over the year supported and guided by Helen who has been our Clerk for 14 years this October. Helen's work and commitment to Chappel Parish Council is invaluable.

I would like to thank Councillor Lewis Barber our County Councillor who has supported us on many areas of Parish Council work over the years. He is now standing down as a Councillor and we wish him all the very best in his future career. William Sunnucks our Ward Councillor attends many of our meetings updating us on issues affecting the Parishes and the City Council.

Our roles within the village :

Represent the views of residents

Liaise with Essex County Council and Colchester City Council

Review and comment on Planning Applications

Report issues with regards to the roads, footpaths to the relevant authorities

Maintain the children's play area

Maintain the Sports Field, the Parish Field and the Allotments

Arrange grass and hedge cutting by Contractors

Maintain lights within the village

Maintain the public footpaths within the village boundary

Grants to local organisation, this year a grant was made to the Village Church and Village Hall

Update the Parish Council Website and Facebook page

One of the most important issues facing all local Parishes is Planning and the emerging Local Plan. We are part of the Seven Parishes Group working together to respond jointly on the new Local Plan. Chappel has an allocated site for 35 houses. This proposal is to deliver 30% (11) affordable housing units and to make them available to residents of the village or those with a local connection as a discounted rent/affordable rent. At present this proposal remains as an outline planning application and we await the decision from the Colchester City Council Planning Team. We have asked Essex Highways to reduce the speed along Chappel Hill if this development proceeds.

Under the guidance of Patrick his small team of volunteers continue with Speed Watch duties when possible. Traffic is increasing along the A1124 and Swan Street at speeds way beyond the limit at times. Patrick continues to work tirelessly to reduce speeds. A huge thanks to Paul Stocker who looks after our Speed Indicator Sign in Swan Street and provides us with updates each month.

The Play Equipment was installed in 2016 and remains so very popular with both residents visitors. Under the watchful eye of Nick who monitors the equipment. Maintenance and repairs have taken place during the year. We have been successful in applying for grants to replace the junior play equipment and this project will go ahead this year. Our thanks go to Tom Leggett for bark deliveries used to top up the surface.

The Poppy Trail and World War II Heritage Walking Trail are assets and continue to bring visitors to the village.

The allotments and Parish Field are again a great asset to our Village. I would like to thank Vicky Wing who has helped again this year to prune and stake the fruit trees. Vicky has her bee hives on the field and has fingers crossed for a good year.

A new project for 2026 - Villages in Bloom. Nigel, who joined us in February 2025 has taken up this project with huge enthusiasm and has residents on board helping. Installation is due shortly so please look out for his wonderful displays.

We continue with our Contractors Jack Perfect-Brown and his team for grass mowing, Jonathan Doe for hedge cutting, Tom Leggett for tree work and bark supplied for the Play Area. David, Roger and Ross Barron for being here when we need them. TBS Hygiene for emptying the bins at the play equipment. Cathy Beard with Jim as support for litter picking and extras they both do. To all who make Chappel a wonderful place to live.

Our meetings take place here in the village hall on the second Monday of each month, apart from in August, at the earlier time of 7pm. Our website www.chappel.org and a Facebook Page are available on line. Please keep in touch with us. If you have an idea or comment we would like to hear from you. We have a vacancy if you fancy joining us and making a difference to Chappel. **Sue Chamley Chairman – Chappel Parish Council**

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Wakes Colne Parish Council

As the 2025/2026 municipal year comes to an end and, following our AGM, our officers remain the same with myself as Chairman

and Denise Stocker as Vice Chair and temporary Clerk. I would like to thank her and our two other councillor, Barry Walsh and William Sunnucks for all they do on behalf of the parish.

It has certainly been a busy year for the Parish Council, particularly with the draft Local Plan and the proposals affecting Wakes Colne. Throughout the process, we have worked hard to keep residents informed and ensure everyone has had the opportunity to have their say. We hope the consultation events held in December 2025 and March 2026 helped achieve this. There is still much more work ahead as the Local Plan progresses through further stages and consultations during 2026.

We have also been pleased to work closely with neighbouring parish councils, including within Braintree District. Together, we have submitted statements and objections regarding the collective impact proposed developments will have on local infrastructure, including the A1124 and services shared across surrounding villages. This collaborative approach will continue as plans develop further.

Alongside these larger issues, the everyday work of the Parish Council carries on: advising Colchester City Council on planning applications, arranging maintenance and repairs around the village, and helping to keep Wakes Colne a pleasant and welcoming place to live. During the forthcoming year, we hope to engage with our new County Councillor on arrangements around road works to, hopefully, improve co-ordination and road signage.

There have also been some wonderful community projects taking shape over the past year. The Station Adopters have completed the new living roof cycle shed project at the station, while the Villages in Bloom initiative has seen the first phase of planters installed around the village. We are delighted to have supported both groups, whose projects are only possible thanks to the dedication and hard work of local volunteers who make such a positive difference to village life.

Our thanks also go to Kandee and Jamini for hosting the new community noticeboard outside their shop which we hope residents will find useful and informative. In addition, our website now includes a community news section and the option to sign up for regular updates, while our Facebook page continues to share important and interesting village news.

Finally, we do currently have vacancies on the Parish Council. If you would like to get involved in supporting the village, please do come along to a meeting or speak to one of our councillors for an informal chat. Meetings are held at 7.15pm in the Village Hall, with upcoming dates on 3rd June, 1st July (no meeting in August) and 2nd September. As we look ahead to another busy and exciting year, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very warm and enjoyable summer.

Cllr. Peter Chillingworth, Chairman

Please visit our website: www.wakescolne-pc.gov.uk



Barbara Lilian Emslie 'Babs'

12th July 1939—21st March 2026

Babs lived in Wakes Colne for thirty years with her son. She loved gardening, birds and the countryside. Babs enjoyed dancing—especially to the song 'The Locomotion'!

www.echm.org.uk

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



Earls Colne Heritage Museum is delighted to announce that the iconic water tower, home to the Museum since 2005, has now been purchased by the Earls Colne Heritage Museum Charitable Trust and refurbishment works to the outside of the building have begun. The acquisition was facilitated by grants from both The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Manton Foundation (USA), for which we are very grateful. The museum will continue its normal opening times while this work is carried out, but please be aware that scaffolding is currently around the building.

The reinterpretation of the museum's displays and collections will commence following the completion of the renovation. The success represents hundreds of hours of voluntary work and support by Museum Trustees and volunteers. We thank National Lottery players for their support, which funds the Heritage Fund. <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/>

Please follow the ECHM Facebook page for further updates as we now move forward with this exciting project.

BT Telephone Box, outside of Drapers in Earls Colne High St

Recently, BT decided to remove the telephone outside the Drapers; modern mobile phone technology has led to thousands of these iconic red boxes being removed from their sites across the country. Fortunately, charitable organisations can "adopt" these boxes for the princely sum of £1! This has now been completed by the Museum, and our intention is that it will be repurposed as an information booth, complementing the Book Exchange telephone box at the other end of the village.

June Events

13 June - ECHM is going to Gt Tey! We are pleased to say that we will be at the Gt Tey Village Fete. Come and see us! We'd love to chat with you.

20 June - Out and About with John Stedman continues with Shut Lane, Park Lane and Hayhouse Road. Meet at St Andrews Churchyard for a 2pm start. Audio equipment supplied. Tickets £7.50 available from the Museum. Please advise of your intention to attend.

30 June - at the Essex Record Office, Chelmsford CM2 6YT. Gordon Brown talks "SAS in Wartime Essex" Tickets available from: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ero-presents-the-sas-in-wartime-essex-tickets-1982011459630?>

July Events

18 July - Out and About with John Stedman finds us continuing with Foundry Lane and Thomas Bell Road. Hunts first lot of industrial housing for the Atlas Works employees. Meet at the Museum for a 2pm start. Tickets £7.50 available from the Museum. Please advise of your intention to attend.

23 July - Festival of Essex Archaeology & Heritage 2026 at Cressing Temple Barns, Witham Rd, Braintree, CM77 8PD.

10am - 5pm. This public event will be free to attend. <https://www.explore-essex.com/whats-on/festival-of-essex-archaeology>

August Events

5 August - Four Colne's Horticultural Show, Earls Colne Recreation Ground, Halstead Rd, CO6 2NG 10am - 4pm. Free event, many stalls and show of produce.

22 August - Out and About with John Stedman. The 'Royal Streets' - Queens Rd and York Road. Meet at the corner of Park Lane/York Road for a 2pm start. Tickets £7.50 available from the Museum. Please advise of your intention to attend.

All John's Tours delivered in his own inimitable style and filled with history and stories that only John can recount. Audio Equipment provided.

Thank you for your continued support.



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Join the 20's Plenty Movement
 Safer Streets for Chappel and Wakes Colne

Imagine quieter village roads, safer journeys to school, and more confidence for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. That is the aim of the growing '20's Plenty for Us' campaign.

Many roads in Chappel and Wakes Colne could benefit from lower speeds, especially Spring Gardens, Station Road and The Street, near the school. Narrow, winding roads and limited footpaths can make travel difficult and sometimes unsafe for residents and visitors alike.

The campaign does not call for blanket restrictions everywhere. Instead, it supports sensible speed limits where they can make the greatest difference to safety, wellbeing and everyday village life.

Communities across the country are already seeing the benefits of calmer traffic and safer, quieter streets. Supported by the Parish Councils and Essex Police road safety professionals, the campaign encourages local involvement from anyone who cares about community safety.

For more information, or to join the Community Speed Watch volunteer team, contact Patrick Dent on 01787 220147.

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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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