

The Chappel & Wakes Colne

Village Reporter



September to November 2025 Issue no. 126

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

Harvest Festival Services
See pages 3 and 4

Remembrance
Service
Sunday 9th November
See page 5 for details



Sound System Appeal
at Chappel and Wakes
Colne Churches
See page 3 for details

EVENTS COMING UP IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Abbeygate Concert Band
28th September
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Theatre performance
'The Tales Our Mother Told'
5th October
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Autumn Fair
18th October
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Exhibition of Local Artists
1st November
Page 9

Wine Tasting Evening
28th November
Page 6

Opening of new Exhibition Hall at EARM on 13th July. See page 8 for more photographs and report

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 December 2025 to February 2026 issue- Friday 21st November 2025

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 Parish Council Clerk: Nandita Nandi clerk@wakescolne-pc.gov.uk
Wakes Colne Website www.wakescolne.org
Wakes Colne Chairperson Cllr. William Sunnucks
William.Sunnucks@colchester.gov.uk
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

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

CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL

AUTUMN FAIR

SATURDAY
18TH OCTOBER 2025
10AM - 2PM

Hand-Made Textiles, Bird Feeders & Bug Hotels, Prints, Bric-a-Brac, Art, Sweet Treats, Paper Crafts, Costume Jewellery and more.....

Hot & cold refreshments will be on sale



Parking Available

Come along and say hello. Bring a friend. Catch up with old friends. Have a chat, some coffee & cake !!

RAISING FUNDS FOR THE VILLAGE HALL



EZE School of Motoring
www.ezelearning.uk



Learn to drive the EZE way!

Al Jones—Driving Instructor
(based in Mount Bures)

Offering driving lessons in all the surrounding areas.

EZE School of Motoring provides **FREE** Young Drivers Courses at both Thomas Gainsborough and Ormiston Sudbury Academies and are proud sponsors of TGS Year 12 Youth Football Team

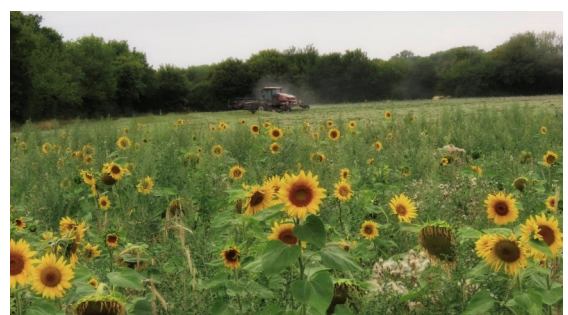


Discount available when you quote the 'Village Reporter'.

eZe Call us on 07980 314998

G & J Barrons combining wheat and swathing borage

Photographs by Rosemary Prestney



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

Tina is amazing! She came round today for a first introduction and wow within a few minutes she had my 16 month old puppy doing things she hasn't done since I got her. Not only that she's given me lots of pointers to work on, advice with my new pup, we have booked a 1-2-1 session and the puppy 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



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,

Welcome to our September edition of the Village Reporter We have had a most beautiful summer and we are all hoping it continues for a little longer. As usual our two churches have been extremely busy with services, outreach, wedding planning and so much more. Our attempts to find a new priest in charge are continuing and interviews are planned yet again for early October where we pray that our Benefice may be successful this time around. Until that happens, please contact me on any matter, whether it be a baptism, funeral, wedding, or community help with prescription pickups, or any other difficulty, I am at the end of the phone 07748968083. Please leave a message if I am unable to answer and I will get back to you promptly. Our churches are so keen to be of help to the whole of our community in any way we can.

On the subject of churches, we have two big projects ongoing at the moment. The first project is to install sound systems for both our churches, which will transform our services and also any events that take place within them. Our second project is to install toilet facilities at Wakes Colne church. This is a lengthy and costly process, but so needed to open our church up to more events, give accessibility to all and would be especially helpful when people are travelling to get to weddings etc. We have a fundraiser coming up next month, on 28th September at the Village Hall. It is a band concert with refreshments, at 2.30 pm. All proceeds will go towards our sound systems. We do hope some of you may be able to attend. There is more information on the event in the magazine.

We had two brilliant school events at the end of the summer term. There was a Year 6 retreat in the Chappel churchyard, led by Reverend Emma Barr, which the children loved. Also, the annual school leavers service was held, which was a joyous celebration of the school year, with all the children taking part, award cups were presented and Reverend Emma and I handed out bibles to all the Year 6 children, as a gift from the church. We wish all our leavers from Chappel school a wonderful summer and every happiness in their new secondary school - a new journey commences for all of them. We look forward to continuing our work with the school in September with our Open Book team and other events planned.

Our services will all be listed on this page for our two churches. Everyone is so welcome to come along and join us. I will finish up with a prayer for our community, if I may.

Heavenly father, we pray for the flourishing of our community - spiritually, socially and economically. May we work together to create a place where all are valued, where justice and peace prevail, and where the needs of the most vulnerable are met. We pray for those who are in positions of leadership within our community. Grant them wisdom, discernment and humility as they serve the needs of the people. May they be guided by your truth and love.

Finally Lord, we thank you for the gift of community and for the bonds of love and fellowship that unite us. Help us to be instruments of your peace shining your light and spreading your love wherever we go.

AMEN

Blessings to you all
Christine (Maskell)

CHURCH SERVICES

September 7th Morning Worship Wakes Colne church 10am

September 28th Benefice Communion Wakes Colne Church
1pm (please note unusual time)

October 5th Harvest Thanksgiving Chappel Church 10am.

October 26th Benefice Communion Chappel Church 2pm
(please note unusual time)

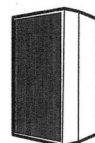
November 2nd All Saints Sunday Morning Worship Wakes
Colne Church 10am

November 9th Remembrance Sunday Wakes Colne Church
10.55am (please note unusual time)

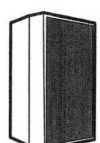
November 23rd Christ the King Benefice Communion Wakes
Colne Church 2pm (please note unusual time)



All Saints Wakes Colne and St Barnabas Chappel SOUND SYSTEM APPEAL



*We want you to hear our message
loud and clear!*



We propose to install microphones – fixed & lapel and speakers
in our 2 ancient Church Buildings.

Please help us to achieve this installation
which will also benefit future events in our
Churches – Weddings, Funerals, Concerts
and School Services.

Donate via our QR Code below or by
cash, cheque or Bank Transfer to:
Wakes Colne & Chappel PCC, A/c No.
04013344, Sort Code 30-92-16.

Costing **£2,600** per Church, your
donation will make a real difference.



SCAN TO DONATE NOW



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



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

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

MINISTER: Vacant

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

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

The joy of learning . . .

In the past few months I have been party to celebrating the lives of three people who shared a common passion. One was a lawyer, one a soldier and the third a professional teacher. All three were involved, either formally or voluntarily, in the education of children.

None of them did it for kudos but because they delighted in sharing knowledge and skills with young minds, ready to soak up everything they could.

Casting my mind back to my school days I have no recollection of what I thought about the motivation of those who taught me; if I thought about it at all I would probably have assumed that they, the teachers, did it for the money. Professional teachers must be paid or they cannot survive in teaching. Two of the three were unpaid volunteers and just as enthusiastic and committed as the professional.

Reflecting further I realise that long after our formal education is over, we continue spending much time in learning and in imparting knowledge to others. As we get

William Glasse – URC Lay Preacher

older our minds soak up information less quickly than when we were young but it is still good to keep learning about things that interest us or enhance our lives.

Those of us who lead worship know that partly what we do is to teach. When we attend worship, we learn new things about God and constantly look for new ways of expressing faith. Worship leaders are constantly learning too. The old testament prophet Isaiah wrote: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" *

Our knowledge of God is not out of date because we forget but because God is constantly adapting his support for us to suit developing circumstances. With every world event, good or bad, timeless scriptures become timely as they are reinterpreted.

It is wonderful to keep on learning; thanks be to God that his teaching is constantly renewed, never stale or dated.

* Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV UK

Preachers in September, October and November

On Sundays at 6.30pm

URC unless indicated otherwise

SEPTEMBER

7 Rev'd Mark Payne *C of E*
14 Rev'd Dr Martin Camroux
21 William Glasse **HARVEST**
28 Alan Macnaught

OCTOBER

5 Rev'd Charles Martin
12 Rev'd Andrew Royal
19 Rev'd Neil Coulson *Baptist*
26 Ian Hardie

NOVEMBER

2 William Glasse
9 Rev'd Dr Martin Camroux
16 Carol Nicholson
23 William Glasse
30 Rev'd Ruth Ridge *Methodist*

Prayer 'Teach me O Lord Thy holy way, and give me an obedient mind, That in Thy service I may find, my soul's delight from day to day'
James Drummond Burns

'Saviour, teach me day by day, love's sweet lesson to obey . . . Learning how to love from Thee, loving Him who first loved me.' *Jane Eliza Leeson*

Harvest Festival

Sunday 21st September
at 6.30pm

Preacher: William Glasse

Seasonal refreshments afterwards

Collection for Christian Aid

Tins of soup for Colchester city centre 'Soup-run' for the homeless. Foodstuffs for the Colchester Food-bank

All Welcome

124th Church Anniversary . . .

The Congregational Church in Chappel, now part of the United Reformed Church since 1972, opened on the **25th of August 1901**.

It all began with nine local residents meeting together – to quote the Minutes of 18th April 1901:

'We the inhabitants of the village of Chappel 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.'

The Chapel, formerly a builders' store was adapted and rented at first and bought in the 1920's and additions made.

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 AND WAKES COLNE WOMENS INSTITUTE

In May we had our very well attended Annual General Meeting. Formal business was executed successfully with a couple of changes to committee members. The Chairman and Secretary reported how popular our group has been during the past year with membership going from strength to strength. It was a lovely reminder to hear of the diverse and interesting things we have done during the twelve months.

Following this we enjoyed a lovely chat with one of our members whose hobby is kayaking on our local rivers. She belongs to an environmental group who collect litter from the water and the banks as they paddle along seeing things that you can only notice from the river. How surprising to hear of some of the odd things she has collected and observed – what an eye opener that was! Following on we had a grand buffet – as I have mentioned in previous reports you only have to say “bring something” and you have a spread – delicious.

On 17th June six members attended the Essex Federation Annual General Meeting held this year at Essex University – what a super venue it is and what a lovely day we had. The guest speakers were brilliant and top of the bill was Adam Frost from Gardeners World, Chelsea Gold Medal winner and celebrated horticulturalist. What an entertaining and hilarious speaker he proved to be.

Our June meeting in the village hall was a Needle Felting Workshop with a brilliant attendance and a most enjoyable fun evening. We all came away having achieved a result of our labours – even those who thought they would not be able to do it – just proves that you have to have a go – it all adds to the fun. Later in June we visited Hill House, Aldham for an afternoon looking round the beautiful grounds.

The July meeting was Flower Power Well Being which was a very interesting and informative talk on how flowers and green spaces have a direct bearing on our mental health.

Diary dates:

September 17th – Our Own Meeting joined by Joanne who sings for well being

October 15th – The Magical Entertainer with John Richards

November 19th – Seated Yoga with Sue Godwin

December 17th Christmas Party

Venue Village Hall at 7.30. Visitors £5 including tea/coffee and homemade cakes

Dorothyb.crees@googlemail.com

The Remembrance Service

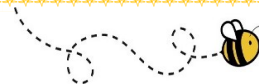
Sunday 9th November at 10.55am, at Wakes Colne Church. The wreath presented during the service will be laid by the Oak tree on the green, opposite the post office at approximately 11.45am. Hope you can attend.

Poppies will be on sale from October. They can be purchased from the Post Office, The Swan and the school. Thank you for your support.

Please contact Val Sayer for details tel: 01206 240328



Bee Lines



2025 will almost certainly be remembered as the year of the heatwave. Or rather heatwaves, as at time of writing I think there has already been four of them this summer, and still, plenty of time for another one or two.

A heatwave, apparently, is declared when the daily temperature remains above a certain high threshold for a defined period of time. Those of us old enough to remember the great heatwave of 1976 may recall that the temperature in London reached an almost unprecedented 35.1 degrees. By this year's standard, that seems almost like an ice-age.

If I recall rightly in 1976 there was also a prolonged drought, featuring almost nationwide hosepipe bans. From memory, the situation was so bad that a government minister, the then Minister for Sport, was appointed as a drought buster. Within a couple of days the heavens opened, breaking the drought and leading to the immediate hailing of Mr Denis Howell, the aforementioned minister, as our saviour. By doing absolutely nothing, our Denis achieved more in one day than he did in several years as Minister for Sport. That's politics for you. However, to return to the present day, the weather has once again caused some upheaval in the world of the bees.

Everything seemed to happen much earlier this year. The spring honey crop finished in mid May. Peak swarming season was late May to early June, but the timing of swarms is always variable; I have known it to be as early as April, and last year I was catching swarms in the garden in early August.

Locally the main summer honey crop always corresponds to the flowering of borage, as the bees will ignore all other sources of nectar, and gorge on borage as soon as it becomes available. This year, of course, was different. The drought of spring delayed the borage crop considerably. By the middle of July, when we are usually awash with borage, there was barely a blue flower to be seen in the fields. The bees were getting their nectar from other sources, but the honey yield was well down on previous years.

So this year the main crop honey, instead of featuring borage, was what beekeepers would refer to as a wildflower honey, in other words a honey derived from a wide mix of sources, which locally would include bramble, rose bay willow herb (both of which flowered early) and any nectar bearing plants you may have planted in your garden. So just when it appeared that the honey season had, to all intents and purposes, closed a few weeks early, there was to be one final twist to the story. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes of a drought ridden summer, a few fields of borage suddenly burst into bloom. Although several weeks later than usual, and much reduced in acreage from previous years, and yielding less nectar than usual due to the dry conditions, the bees were able to rise (or fly) to the occasion and produce just enough honey to turn the honey year from disastrous to just about adequate.

We now approach autumn, when the bees, with a little help from their keeper, will prepare for winter, the aim being to produce strong hives ready to hit the ground running next spring. Any honey from late flowering nectar bearing plants, mostly ivy, will be left for the bees as food to see them through the winter months. Hopefully next year will see a return to a more normal pattern of weather, although after the last few years, I don't think I would recognise a normal weather pattern if one jumped up and bit me! Onwards and upwards.

Your bee correspondent, The Old Drone

MOBILE LIBRARY

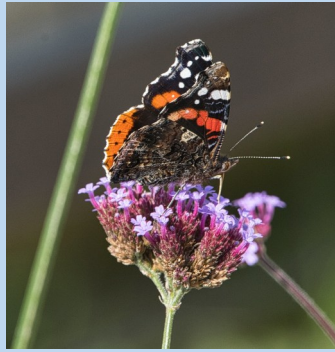
Visits Swan Grove, Chappel 1.45 to 2.15pm.

(Note: sometimes the van arrives early)

Next dates: Tuesday 10th September, 1st and 22nd October and 12th November

Nature notes

The big conversation over the summer has been over the recovery of insects generally and butterflies specifically. General conclusion seems to be that this was one-off bumper summer following a warm spring, with windscreens again splattered with bugs and butterflies fluttering all over the place just like the old days, but not a turning of the ecological corner.



Life in my garden supports this. Certainly, there have been huge numbers of butterflies. One evening on my several buddleia there was a cloud of butterflies, so many whites that it looked like a summer snowstorm. In among them Commas, Peacocks and a few Red Admirals, Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers. Commas and Gatekeepers especially have done very well. Ringlet is usually rare but many more this summer; I even released one caught in the greenhouse. More Speckled Wood and Brimstones too.

My Purple Hairstreaks appeared again, not many, but they were there, dancing around the tops of the oaks and more active in the evening. Skippers were very few, just a couple of Large Skippers in the veg patch. Hummingbird Hawk Moth I saw in other gardens, but not mine this time

It was not all good news though. Once again, I had no Small Tortoiseshell and no Painted Lady. That's three summers now with no Small Tortoiseshell in the garden or even on my local travels, so I think I'm saying it has now gone from the area.

One big surprise though, a first for the garden. A White Admiral. Slightly larger than the Red Admiral, with a more leisurely often gliding flight. I have seen them in Chalkney Wood, which is not far away I suppose, but never in the garden, and there it was on the brambles. I hurried indoors to get the camera, but of course by the time I got back....

The House Martins have done pretty well. Eight nests this year, and with this number of nests there will always be casualties, but perhaps because the bugs provided a bigger feast and the weather was hot, there have been very few this year. They're well into the second brood now.

Birds too provided a first for the garden. A Grey Wagtail was on the lawn a couple of times in July. Yes I've seen them often along in the river, but never in the garden before. The last Cuckoo called on 11th June, and this year I still had not seen one until exactly one month later I followed one in the car flying along the bank section of Lane Road. Otherwise, apart from a Blackcap singing in mid-July birdsong has died down completely.

The annual trip to Minsmere this year gave three things. I saw a Bittern flying for a few seconds from one reedbed to another. Then a great view of a Mediterranean Gull in full adult plumage, snoozing on a bank. It has a true black head, unlike the Black-headed Gulls around it which actually have chocolate brown heads. It also has a large very red bill, and looks generally whiter. Like Egrets, rare a few years ago but spreading, Mediterranean Gull is widely resident now on our estuaries.

Lastly, a glimpse of Sizewell C, where construction is now in full swing, and the Bitterns must be concerned about the bulky encroachment. The first commercial law of nuclear plants is that they cost substantially more than the first, second and third estimates, and that they take much longer to build than first announced. The Sizewell C website does give the cost (£38 billion) but has forgotten to mention when the plant will start up. Which I take that to mean it won't be generating before 2040. The other risk here is technology change, because when Rolls finally gets its small-modular reactors rolling out, a £38 bn (plus, plus) 3.2 GW behemoth in Suffolk will look like a clumsy decision. Government should have asked the Bitterns.

Fingeringhoe provided some relief from this gloom, not with variety but with volume of birds. The tide was in and the waders were concentrated in resting flocks on the sea-wall rather than dispersed over the mud. 250 Black-tailed Godwits (some still in summer plumage red), 50 each of Greenshank, Grey Plover and Avocet standing around waiting for the tide to turn. When I've seen Greenshanks before it's always been in ones and twos, never 50.

Tony Witcher

Photograph of Red Admiral butterfly by Peter Batt

WINE

tasting

with
Colne Valley Wines

**Friday
28th November
2025
at 7pm**

**tickets £25.00
includes cheeseboard**

**Call Steve on 07787 436815
steve@colnevalleywines.co.uk**

**CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL,
COLCHESTER ROAD, WAKES COLNE CO6 2BX**



Exhibition of Work by Local Artists Chappel and Wakes Colne Village Hall

Saturday, 1st November

Organised by Colne Valley Art Group



The group is holding its annual event to show our work and to encourage art in the area. Entries are welcome from non-members, including school children. Please note the change of date from previously advertised.

This year's exhibition will take place at the Village Hall from 10.00 am till 3.00 pm. Viewing free, everyone welcome, there will be refreshments and tombola. Entries £2 per item with no commission on sales. Children under 12 enter free.

Please note, work will be handed in on Friday, 31st October, 6.00 pm till 8.00 pm.

Please contact Peter Chillingworth for entry details.
chillingworthpeter23@gmail.com, or
telephone 01206240230



Chappel Millennium Green

It was a lovely early evening in July and I was walking around the Millennium Green with my wife, Jan. We were halfway round the boardwalk near to the river bank and admiring the view across the water meadow towards the upper field. It was here, we met Dave and George for the first time. After a brief exchange of greeting and almost simultaneously, we shared how lucky and privileged we felt to be able to enjoy the openness and space The Green provided to the community. I admired the red neckerchief that George was wearing even though he seemed more interested in exploring the river bank and water meadow. Perhaps I should mention at this stage, George is a lovely Spaniel who clearly enjoys his regular visits to the Green with Dave.



You will have noticed we have cut swathes of pathways through the heritage orchard which add interest and enable members of our community to reach the ripened fruit which is there for all to share and enjoy. Those early spring blossoms have excelled this year and kept their promises.



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 prizewinners are as follows:

June 2025 Draw – Ticket Number 22 – Gillian White £50.00
 June 2025 Draw – Ticket Number 55 – Claire Gleed £20.00
 July 2025 Draw – Ticket Number 64 – Nina Ingram £50.00
 July 2025 Draw – Ticket Number 48 – Jill Bruce £20.00
 August 2025 Draw – Ticket Number 44 – Denise Stocker £50.00
 August 2025 Draw – Ticket Number 124 – Sue Everson £20.00

The Draw takes place every month, usually at the Chappel Parish Council Meeting. The August draw was officiated by Caro Walker as the Parish Council do not meet in August.

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.

A rare opportunity to capture three Millennium Green Committee members who are very active behind the scenes and normally out of sight. From left to right we have Nick Ingram (Treasurer) Sue Chamley (Chappel Parish Council representative) and Alan Thorogood (Secretary). They were spotted during a recent walkabout inspection of The Green. 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



Domestic installations

Commercial installations

Industrial installations

CCTV Installations

Emergency lighting

Circuit replacement

Solar Panels

Heating controls

Air Source Heat Pumps

Fuseboard Upgrades

Fully qualified JIB Gold Card Electrician covering Bures and surrounding areas

HARRY tel: 07861 764861

Email: info@22electrical.com

Website: www.22electrical.com

Facebook: 22 Electrical Ltd

Instagram: 22electricalLtd

Chappel and Wakes Colne Station Adopters

As I write it is another scorching day! 2025 seems to be flying past. So much has been happening. We have been kept busy watering to make sure the plants on the platform and in the garden look attractive. We have been experimenting a little with plants that do not need as much water, and that can withstand the strong sun. The plants have attracted many insects and butterflies this year. Val's bench and the 'talking bench' are used frequently. Conversations with visitors show how much these facilities are appreciated. We too are grateful for all your kind comments when we are at the station.



July 13th was an amazing, and successful day at the East Anglian Railway Museum.

Almost 700 people came to celebrate the opening of the new Exhibition Hall



Some of the hard working, museum team that helped to create the Exhibition Hall!



and 200 years of the railways. The Trustees wish to thank everyone who came to support and contribute to this much valued community event.

Before the great day, museum members and volunteers worked their fingers to the bone for weeks to make sure all the exhibits were spick and span, not a speck of dust in sight, and all the show areas were tidy with informative notices. The day dawned with everything in place ready to greet our esteemed guests who are very well known in the rail industry. These included Chris Green who ran Network South East, Mike Lamport from the National Railway 200 organisation, Martin Beable Managing Director Greater Anglia and his colleagues Alan Neville and Jonathan Denby, David Jordan Chief Operating Officer Angel Trains, Nigel Spencer Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Sir Bob Russell High Steward of Colchester, The Mayor of Colchester, Bernard Jenkin MP, Paul Webster Community Rail Network and Support Officer, and Nick Atkinson Chair of our local Community Rail Partnership. All were very complimentary about our village, the station, and the work of the museum volunteers who are preserving our rail heritage. Chris Green enjoyed the train journey from Marks Tey to Sudbury so much he did it twice!

Children from the school played a key role in the opening ceremony, singing beautifully. It must have been a surprise to find themselves singing in



front of so many people. After the speeches Chris Green, Martin Beable, Nigel Spencer and two Life Ambassadors from the school cut the ribbons and declared the new Exhibition Hall open. This building is full of fascinating exhibits, information and attractions for children. Chappel and Wakes Colne Station and Railway line played a key role in World War II, more than most of us probably realise.

It is not possible to mention all the fun activities that were available on the museum site that day to entertain everyone. We know that children and parents alike enjoyed making the rag flags, weaving, printing and playing railway themed noughts and crosses with the artist in residence. In the Thompson building children's excellent work about walks to school, and models of railway engines, and the local line and its landmarks are on display. Once the British Transport Police Car had completed its urgent mission in the morning, children really enjoyed exploring it and talking to the policemen about their work.

The Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership (ESSCRP) continues to support events in our locality, including the artist at the July 13th event, and the 1980s music train that ran from Marks Tey to Sudbury twice on 12th July. The disc jockey played lots of music we all remembered. There was dancing in the aisle and the odd look or wave from other passengers as they left the train. Money raised from the sale of refreshments is going to a cancer charity.

The ESSCRP is also working with us to improve the station following the visit from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. We are planning to put a living roof over the bicycle rack, plus a water butt to collect the water that runs off it. Over the winter we plan to build a stag beetle pyramid with the help of Railscape, and install a reptile hibernaculum for reptiles and small creatures to hibernate in. Children at the school have painted some amazing pictures based on the work of Georgia O'Keefe. The ESSCRP is going to print these on weatherproof board so that we can display them at the station.

Finally, Bures and Chappel and Wakes Colne have been nominated in the best small station category in the National Rail Awards to be announced on 17th September. We congratulate our friends, Bures' Station Adopters, and welcome the recognition both stations have received, whatever the outcome in September.

Kath Beck and Al Cochram, Station Adopters



View from inside the Exhibition Hall



Villages in Bloom

Villages in Bloom is a joint idea of the Chappel and Wakes Colne Parish Councils to establish floral displays at advantage points within the boundaries of our wonderful villages.

We are needing volunteers for this exciting community project that will bring colour and vibrancy to our villages.

We are in our infancy with the aim to have our first displays on exhibition from Spring 2026. Although that may seem a long way ahead, we need those enthusiastic people who want to join our group and make a difference.



We are looking for volunteers who are wanting to bring ideas and energy, plant up displays and tend to them during the season.

We would also like anyone who has space in their greenhouse to help grow the starter plants for our magnificent displays as well.

As we will be a stand-alone group we would also welcome anyone or business which might want to contribute a small donation to our cause to bring colour to our villages.

If you are interested and able to give us a few hours of your time, please drop me a quick email with your contact details and I will get in touch.

Thank you so much for reading this and hopefully if we all work together, we can get this well worth project of the ground.



Please email: nigel.lippiatt@yahoo.com

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Sunday

28th September 2025

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CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL
RAISING FUNDS FOR THE VILLAGE HALL



Chappel and Wakes Colne Cricket Club



Hello and a warm welcome on behalf of Chappel and Wakes Colne Cricket Club.

As the summer sun continues to shine and the cricket season heats up, we'd love to see more of you at our home ground, The Hobbies on Inworth Road, Chappel before the season is out. We're a friendly and welcoming club with a lot to offer, from our two competitive senior men's teams to our flourishing ladies' and junior's section.



As we approach the final few weeks of the season, the action on the field is more exciting than ever, with every game crucial. Both senior men's sides are right in the mix for promotion and our ladies' team have once again topped their respective league and are off to the regional finals (date TBC).

We would love to see more residents to Chappel and Wakes Colne come down and support our teams. We're confident you'll be captivated by the sport and the community spirit. Plus, you can enjoy a cold refreshment from our licensed bar – the perfect

tonic to an afternoon of classic village cricket. Everyone is welcome.



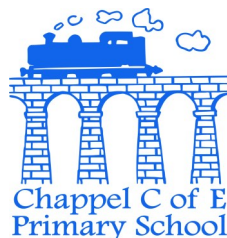
This season, it's been fantastic to see so many of our junior players not just participating but also playing crucial roles in the senior sides.

Their progression is key to the future of our club, and it's incredibly rewarding to see the next generation of Chappel and Wakes Colne cricketers stepping up and making a real impact.

Off the field, we've also had some fantastic events thanks to a number of players, supporters, and volunteers. They helped bring to life our Kwik Cricket Tournament, Prosecco Cricket and Hills T20 – all of which were a huge success. These events are vital for bringing our community together. Stay tuned for more in 2026 – we'll be sure to keep you in the loop.

There is still so much to play for. I look forward to seeing what the rest of the season brings and, hopefully, meeting a few of you down at The Hobbies soon.

Henry Dow
Club Chairman



Later in term our Year 6 pupils embarked on the school's first-ever retreat. Led by Rev. Emma at St Barnabas Church, the retreat offered a chance for reflection, growth, and celebration of their journey through primary school. The children took part in a variety of enriching activities—from team-building games to quiet moments of prayer and discussion. It was a beautiful way to honour their final year and prepare them for the transition ahead.



We celebrated Zoe Bear's 9th Birthday in June. The children all wished her happy birthday and joined in the celebrations with a cake.



The term—and indeed the school year—came to a spectacular close with our end-of-year production, "School of Pop." The performance was a wonderful celebration of our talented children across all of Key stage two. The audience were treated to a brilliant show.

Thomas Connors was selected as the most deserving pupil to be presented the Les Sayer Award, at the schools leavers service in Chappel Church in July 2025. The award is given to a pupil each year for outstanding achievement at Chappel C of E Primary School.

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

Corrie Lock

Corrie was the landlady of the Thatchers Arms, Mount Bures for many years with her husband Gerald. Corrie sadly passed away on 6th February of this year and was buried in Mount Bures Churchyard.

Coping with climate change in Chappel and Wakes Colne

The Head Gardener at Braxted Park, Andrea, a friend of mine, recently left her job to set up her own business, and spent a day working on my neglected garden to great effect. She gave me some excellent advice which I'd like to share with you.

Autumn is the time to plant, not spring. Planting in autumn gives plants time to establish their roots so they get off to a good start when the weather warms in spring. If you have space in your garden,



or something that you no longer like, or have passed its best, now is the time to replace it with something more suitable. Your best chance of success is to look for something that will be happy where you put it, so think about how wet or dry that area is, and how hot and sunny, or shaded, before buying something that looks lovely in the perfect care of the garden centre, but which may never recover from the shock of being planted in the wrong place. This is a great opportunity to help wildlife by choosing plants that are good for pollinators. If you like butterflies, look for single, not double, flowers so that insects can get to the nectar. A garden full of flowers is beautiful, but adding a sprinkling of bees and butterflies adds magic. It's now very difficult to predict how our seasons will turn out, but we are likely to keep seeing more wet, mild winters and hot, dry summers, so that's also something to bear in mind when choosing plants.

First prepare your soil, make sure its moist and weed free. Put cardboard and grass cuttings on weeds to block out the light to discourage growth till you have time to clear it back to bare earth. This is also a great way to keep weeds down between plants, much better than expensive geotextile material. I know from bitter experience that weeds happily grow through that and are then much harder to remove. The cardboard will rot over time, enriching the soil and is easily replaced at no cost. Plenty of cardboard arrives in our homes as packaging, we don't need to buy it! A covering of grass cuttings keeps the cardboard in place and looks natural, also improving your soil, helping it to retain more moisture.

We've been lucky this year not to have a hosepipe ban such as other regions have suffered, but the long, hot, dry spells have highlighted the need for as much water storage as you can fit in. This is definitely the time to ensure every downpipe has a water butt. Those heavy showers refilled our butts quickly, making it possible to water with rainwater all summer despite the drought. Andrea's final tips are: - Don't try to grow bedding plants in borders, our climate is really no longer suitable. Grow bedding plants in pots, with a water tray beneath, for when the compost has dried out too much to retain moisture. And leave seed heads for wildlife, don't over tidy your garden. Lots of the tiny wildlife in our gardens are helping us, improving our soil, or preying on pests, so don't clear away all their homes! If you'd like some help or advice from Andrea, drop me an email and I'll put you in touch.

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

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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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Wakes Colne Motocross 10th August 2025

Photographs by Rosemary Prestney



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Chappel & Wakes Colne Speed Watch Team

Here we are in August already. Time really does fly by - worrying isn't it? But not half as worrying as seeing vehicles 'fly' through our villages.

The most recent CSW session at Rose Green [at the time of writing], the team recorded within a one hour period, 22 vehicles travelling in excess of 30mph with six vehicles travelling at 40+ mph.



So why is it so difficult for Essex Highways to agree to us having a Speed Indicator Device [SID] at Rose Green. Yes, just like the ones on Chappel Hill, A1124/Village Hall and Station Road, which are undisputedly proving to be slowing traffic down.

Thank you Chappel Parish Council and Cllr. Lewis Barber for helping fight this ongoing, senseless battle.

WELL DONE to Julian and Terry on successfully completing the on-line and roadside training to become fully fledged, CSW volunteers.

YOU CAN JOIN OUR TEAM TOO! Every shift does some good because just being there 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.

NEXT ON LINE TRAINING DATES
19th August 2025 @ 7pm
13th August 2025 @ 10.00 am

to find out more call Patrick on 01787 220147
or to book a place,
email community.speedwatch@essex-fire.gov.uk

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

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

A NEW CSW SITE has been approved in Wakes Colne.

SaferEssexRoads have given the go ahead for the new site on the A1124, close to The Forge. This location is in addition to already approved sites on the A1124 in both Chappel & Wakes Colne.



CSW founder member, Patrick Dent, celebrated a very significant Birthday in June - but he is far too shy to have his photo included.

Happy Birthday Patrick!

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Wakes Colne Parish Council



In the last issue of the Village Reporter, we reported that the City Council had delayed sending out its proposed new Local Plan housing allocations for consultation until further work had been carried out on the provision of the necessary infrastructure. Since then a further delay has been announced until December. This poses the question as to whether the proposals will be modified, up or down, bearing in mind continuing pressure from government to provide more housing. For this reason, the parish council will delay consulting residents on the proposals until the formal consultation period finally starts.

Residents will have seen the new traffic Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) operating on the A1124 outside the Village Hall and in Station Road. They do seem to have had an effect on vehicle speed. In addition, they are supplying excellent data on number and speed of vehicles that can be used when demonstrating the problem we have with traffic through the village. We thank Paul Stocker for his hard work getting these devices up and running.

As I write there are serious delays and congestion due to a burst water main by the viaduct. This is having serious consequences for local residents. Much of the problem lies with poor signage and this has been pointed out to the authorities. We are trying to ensure a similar situation does not occur again.

Our Wakes Colne Parish website is undergoing a facelift and we thank Cllr Barry Walsh for the time and effort he is putting into this. In the meantime we continue to communicate news and information via the parish notice boards and the Facebook Group.

The parish council gives an annual award to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the community. Last year this went to Tony Langley for all he had done over the years for the village and in particular, the school. Nominations are open for this year's award.

It is very important to the Council that we do our best to help keep our footpaths clear for walkers. Our Footpath Working Group are looking for volunteers, so if you are interested and think you could give up an hour here or there to be in the fresh air, please do contact Nandita, our Clerk, or myself to register your interest. Likewise, we are still looking for new council members, so if you would like to know what is involved, do please get in touch with me for a chat.

Peter Chillingworth

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Chappel Parish Council



Parish Council Vacancies

We have one vacancies 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 Councillor, please come along to our next Parish Council meeting or contact the Clerk for further information.

Speed Watch Volunteer

Do you have some time to help the Speed Watch Volunteer, if so please contact the Clerk for further information alternatively have a look at their Facebook page.

Missed bin collection

If Colchester City Council mistakenly miss collecting your rubbish, please do report it to them directly after 5.30pm on the day of collection by completing their online form which can be found at:

<https://www.colchester.gov.uk/missed-bins/?step=1>

Potholes

If you spot a pothole or a sign defect this can be reported on-line directly to Essex Highways for them to investigate.

Please visit their website to report it directly:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us>

Allotment Plots

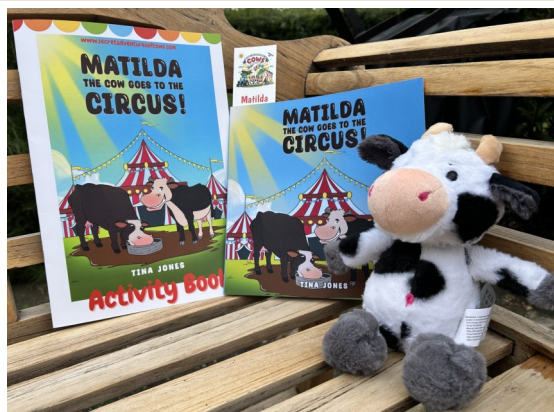
The Parish Council currently manage 10 allotment plots, which can be found on the Colchester Road, while all plots are currently cultivated, we do run a waiting list. Please do contact the Parish Clerk in order to be added to the waiting list.

Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings are due to be held on the 8th September & 13th October. 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

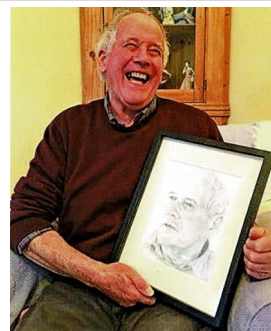


Wilfred Charles Balls 'Wilf'

18th February 1940 - 8th July 2025

Happy Memories of Grandad:

When I'd play with toy soldiers as a kid with my grandad, I'd generally give him the ones with missing arms and legs. To compensate for his disabled detachment, he took a loo roll and used it as a cannon. It was a great lesson in resilience! By Max



There is a photo of Emily, Georgie and I as bridesmaids at a wedding, in absolute hysterics. What you can't see is what we're laughing about - the unforgettable image of Grandad pole dancing up and down the Marquee pole. To this day I am not sure if it was a few too many glasses at the reception or just Grandad being Grandad - never shy of a good time or a bit of showmanship! By Daisy

My favourite memory of Grandad is when he made me hide behind the sofa with the remote so we could trick Georgie into thinking that he was changing the channel by pressing the cannula bandage he had on his arm. He was just always finding fun in everything! By Emily

So many happy memories of Grandad - his love of food and approving a photo of himself, his unique spelling/pronunciation of words. He insisted Tropicana was in fact 'Tropicano' and he was known to even change the logo on the carton, so he was right! By Georgie

Grandad and I enjoyed much sports chat and banter about our rival football teams. When he said he wanted to see Arsenal win the Premier League, I pointed out that he could live to be the world's oldest man and still not see this! By Rory

I have many magical memories of my stays at 'Loveney's Five Star Hotel' - especially Grandad's signature dishes, including homemade chips (THE best!), roasts, Kelly's ice-cream, crumbles, bedtime hot choc and lethal pickled onions. I always gave five-star reviews, apart from the time the pork was 'a bit stiff' and when a Brussels sprout was discovered beneath a Lindor wrapper! By Lula

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- Secret Adventures of Cows Series -



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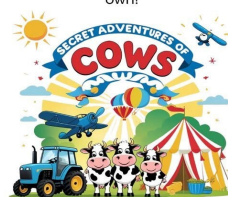
When a traveling circus rumbles past her quiet pasture, she can't resist the call of adventure. Matilda discovers that dreams beyond the fence are full of wonder - and perhaps a few homespun surprises.

Visit www.secretadventuresofcows.com for purchase options

ABOUT THE AUTHOR!

Tina Jones is the author behind charming tales inspired by her time spent on a small English farm on the Essex/Suffolk border alongside Farmer Al, their beloved dog Ella and a herd of 16 spirited cows and their calves.

While Tina's full-time work keeps her off the tractor, her heart is firmly planted in the pasture. Her stories spring from quiet moments on the farm, where she's come to know each cow not just as livestock, but as a character with a personality and a tale all their own!



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The Museum has had a busy summer receiving visitors, walks and talks and visiting other museums. Lots of projects still in progress including Story Boards in the Atlas Gardens (Massingham Drive) and Heritage Trails of Earls Colne.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September
STEP BACK IN TIME: WW2 AIRFIELD WALK & TALK AT THE ESSEX GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB.

Join the Earls Colne Museum for an immersive, all-day historical experience on Saturday, September 6th, from 10 AM to 5 PM.

Discover the fascinating history of a wartime airfield, walking in the footsteps of those who served.

NATIONAL HERITAGE OPEN DAY Find us @ The Quaker Meeting House, Burrows Road, **Saturday 13th September** 10am – 4pm where we have joined forces to take part in this national event. Refreshments available at the Meeting House (built 1794) and a free walk 'Houses and History of Burrows Road' led by John Stedman, local historian at 11am.

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

LANCASTERS MEMORIAL FLYPAST The museum will be commemorating the first anniversary of the memorial on **Saturday 20th September from 11.30am**. We are pleased to have been successful in arranging (weather and operational considerations permitting) a Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Lancaster Flypast at 12.40pm. There will also be a short memorial service to mark the occasion followed by family picnic with live entertainment. Refreshments available. Donations welcome.

OUT AND ABOUT HIGH ST PART 2 TOUR Join John as we head back along Earls Colne High Street for the second part of the Shops of the past tour. **Saturday 18th October 2pm**. Meet outside The Lion. Tickets £5 available from the Museum.

Follow our website and FB page for more details of all events.

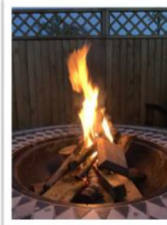
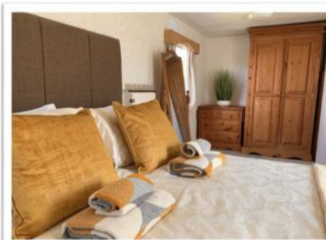
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Review July 2023

Greenacres Farm, Vernons Road, Chappel CO6 2DL

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