

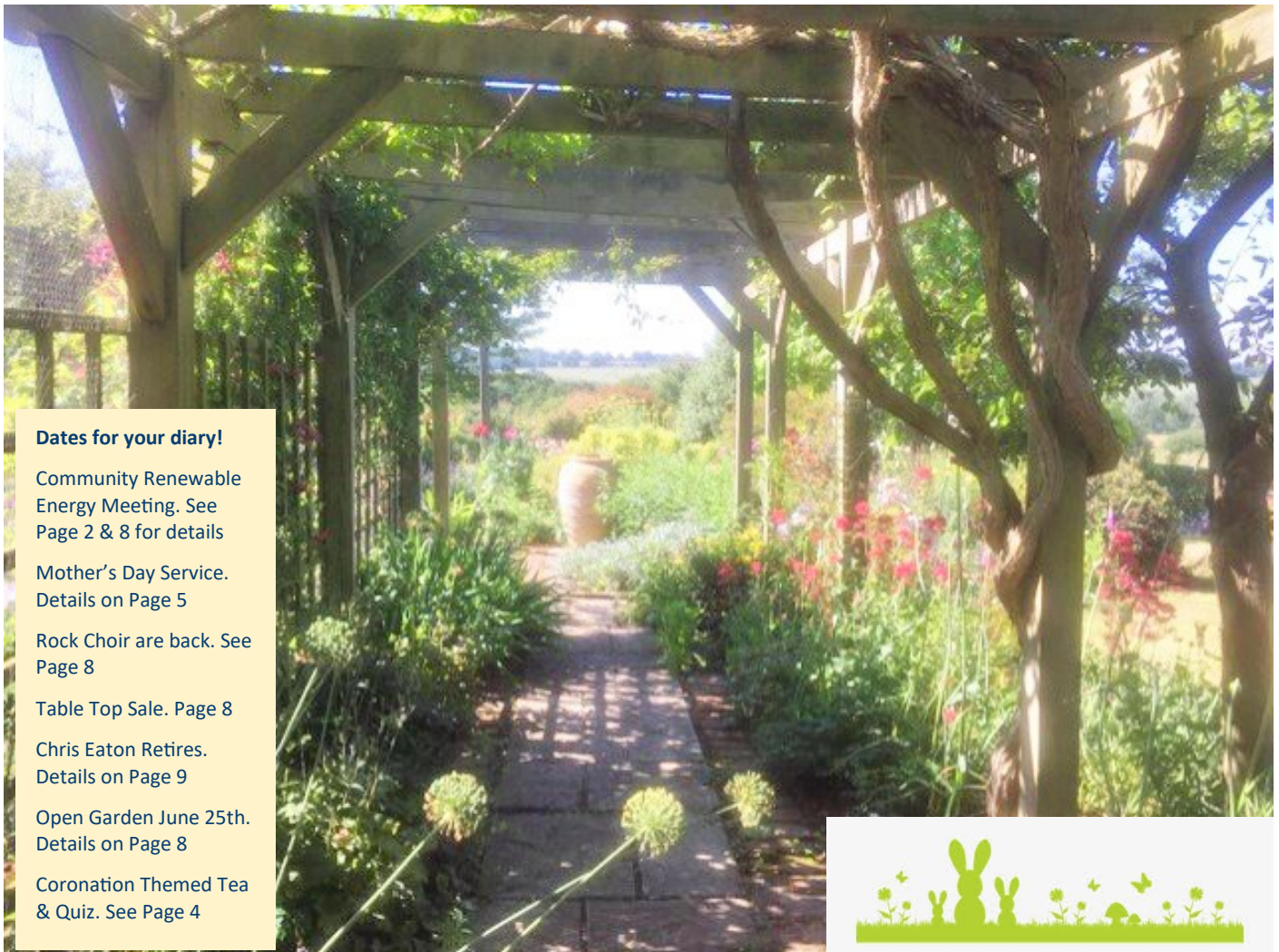
The Chappel & Wakes Colne

# Village Reporter



**March to May 2023** Issue no. 116

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



**Dates for your diary!**

Community Renewable Energy Meeting. See Page 2 & 8 for details

Mother's Day Service. Details on Page 5

Rock Choir are back. See Page 8

Table Top Sale. Page 8

Chris Eaton Retires. Details on Page 9

Open Garden June 25th. Details on Page 8

Coronation Themed Tea & Quiz. See Page 4

Open Gardens at the Chillingworth's Residence Wakes Colne, June 2022

The Village Reporter is compiled, edited and delivered by volunteers and is wholly funded through revenue from advertisers. Anyone wishing to submit an article for publication can contact Mandy Sexton on 07729236253 or email: [mandymsexton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mandymsexton@hotmail.co.uk) Press date for the June to August 2023 issue - Monday 22nd May 2023

#### 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 Julie Ingram 01787 222296
Churches: COE	Richard Bareham Tel. 01206 210799
Chappel URC	Rev. Kenneth N Forbes 01206 547920
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: Ms. Diane Jacob 07508787869
Wakes Colne Chairperson	Cllr. Monica Taylor
Wakes Colne Website	www.wakescolne.org
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	Francesca Mead francescamead@live.com
Village Hall Bookings Clerk	Christine Underwood 0794 9510523

#### Chappel Parish Council

Dear Residents,

Essex County Council's Climate Commission has created a Climate Focus Area (CFA) in Essex. The CFA is a demonstration site for best practice in climate change adaptation and mitigation. The main objective of the CFA is to reach net zero as soon as possible. The area identified is the catchment area of the Colne and The Blackwater, so our back yard. One CFA initiative is to encourage community renewable energy schemes to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and cut energy bills.

#### 40% of UK emissions now come from households.

A project entitled South East New Energy (SENE) is being part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund. It is led by the University of East London and delivered by Essex and Kent County Councils as well as a range of specialist organisations.

The SENE project helps local communities to work together to identify opportunities to generate their own cheaper renewable energy. SENE provides data in the form of a solar survey which identifies where energy generation opportunities exist, followed by a feasibility study which examines how those opportunities can be pursued, including how new business models will enable installation of solar PV **at no upfront cost to households**, reduce our reliance on the national grid, and to become net zero in a shorter space of time. Rather than fields of solar panels the "solar farm" becomes our own roofs, with some ground mounted panels on small parcels of land.

The proposed area is White Colne, Wakes Colne, Chappel and Great Tey. Using data already in the public domain, a geospatial analysis has been carried out. This has identified which buildings and land, whether commercial or domestic, are best suited for solar panels. A feasibility study is now under way and once completed will inform a special public meeting in

#### White Colne Village Hall on March 22nd at 7.30pm.

We had hoped to hold this meeting in Chappel Village Hall, but we will need broadband for all speakers to join us, to make the meeting accessible by zoom on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89866108949>, and so that all relevant data can be presented. Unfortunately Chappel Village Hall does not yet have broadband, but White Colne Village Hall does.

If the feasibility study shows potential for generating clean energy, and the community agrees, we can move the project forward. An Energy Services Company (ESCO) will use the study to raise finance in the markets. An ESCO is not like large companies such as EDF or EON, but a not-for-profit professional company well versed in financing, procurement, design and management of smart local energy systems. As an example, please visit <https://powercircle.org.uk>

The householder/business will have a range of options:

Buy the solar array on your roof/land outright.  
Buy the systems on a 'Pay as you Use' contract (once paid for, the system becomes yours)  
Just buy cheaper green electricity from the ESCO

To receive the survey and feasibility study support from the SENE project we needed eligible organisations to sign up so that we can all benefit. The named company does not receive any funds nor take any risks. It is solely a requirement to access the EU support. Happily, the Browning family have nominated two of their companies, one in White Colne and the other in Great Tey. The East Anglian Railway Museum is also named as a beneficiary. We are indebted to them for allowing their businesses to be used.

**So cheaper greener electricity, less reliant on the national grid, providing benefit for the community. A faster way to net zero.**

Kind regards,  
Sue Chamley, Chair of Chappel Parish Council

#### 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

## IMPORTANT CHANGES

at your recycling centres

From 13 March 2023, bookings will be required to visit an Essex County Council recycling centre in any vehicle.

For full details, visit  
[loveessex.org/bookings](https://loveessex.org/bookings)



Essex County Council  
Recycling and Waste

The  
Electoral  
Commission

**\*  
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## Chappel Millennium Green

It was around 5.30pm on a weekday evening in early February and I was gazing across the lower water meadow of the Millennium Green. My attention was fixed on two barn owls flying effortlessly and quite low in a circular pattern. Their undersides appeared extra white as the sun had almost set and light was fading. I imagined they were both scanning their supper menu.

What a privilege for me and what a vision members of our community had some 25 years ago in securing this natural and accessible landscape here in the heart of the Colne Valley for generations to come. As you may already know, Chappel Millennium Green is owned and administered by a registered charity titled Chappel Millennium Green Trust and is resourced and supported by volunteers from the local community of Chappel and Wakes Colne.

Let me introduce you to some members of the team. Tony Langley has for many years been leading and directing routine maintenance and new planting operations on the Green. He has been supported by such contractors as JPB Landscapes for grass cutting, Tom Leggart for tree surgery and Jonathan Cordingley for general maintenance. Nick Ingram has over the years fulfilled many functions and is currently Treasurer whilst Alan Thorogood has recently joined the team as Secretary. Amanda Voyce continues to serve on the committee and keeps the current team in order.

Over the years, many volunteers have given freely of their time, energy and skills and I pay tribute to them all and thank them for their generosity. Funding is crucial to the ongoing success of The Millennium Green and I extend my grateful thanks to those members of our community who have provided a financial legacy to the charity.

The 200 Club continues to generate essential funding and recent winners include Michael White (Station Road) and Wendy Bryant (The Street) both winning £32.00. If you are interested in purchasing a numbered ticket in the 200 Club, please contact either Tony, Nick or Amanda for more details and your support will be most welcome.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and all are welcome to attend. We will be sharing more news on our future proposals and publishing our yearly accounts. I do hope you will consider joining us not only at the AGM but also as a volunteer and supporter in whatever way you can. In the meantime as winter begins to surrender to spring, do continue to visit and enjoy The Green and all it has to offer our community.

With Every Good Wish  
Peter Neubauer, Chairman  
Mob: 07714 337137 or email: [neubauer@btinternet.com](mailto:neubauer@btinternet.com)

## BRITISH LEGION

Any queries please contact Val Sayer on 01206 240328

## East Anglian Railway Museum



A lot has been going on at the EARM since our last update. We have had our first event days of 2023, and we've been undertaking some track works over the winter to connect our new Exhibition Hall to the rest of the Museum. We hope to open this building later in the year.

We have numerous event days coming up, including our regular Steam and Diesel Days. This year as well we have an additional one – "DERAILED"; our Puzzle Hunt. This event replaces our Escape Rooms that we did before Covid; it allows a group of up to six to take on the challenge to solve the puzzle and defuse the bomb. More details can be found on our website. Also new for this year is our Murder Mystery Evening in June; more details soon. We also welcome back the League of Essexextraordinary Gentlemen during our Father's Day Event for some Steampunk Shenanigans.

Visit our website [www.earm.co.uk](http://www.earm.co.uk) for more details and to book in advance for 5% discount. As a special thank you to our neighbours, please use discount code VILLAGE10 for an extra 10% off. (Sorry that we cannot offer this for Thomas or Beer Festival events). We're open Weekends and Wednesday plus most Bank Holidays throughout the year.

Thank you for your support and we hope to see many of you on site at some point throughout the year.



(top: Museum Volunteers undertake track works on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023. Above: Works to connect the new track to the pit on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023).





## The Minister writes . . .

THE 16<sup>th</sup> century reformer, Martin Luther, said 'God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees, and flowers, and clouds and stars'.

For Christians, the heart of the Biblical gospel is the resurrection story, the miraculous events of three days in Jerusalem when Jesus' friends discovered he had – in some way inexplicable to them and to us – returned from death. Their mourning turned to joy as they realised that their three years of following him and learning from him had not been a waste of time, and that what they had thought was the end of his mission to the world was in fact just the beginning.

How appropriate, then, that (at least for us in the Northern hemisphere) our celebration of the resurrection at Easter coincides with springtime, for both draw our attention to the miracle of new life.

In spring, perhaps more than at any other time of year, we can see clearly what Luther was getting at when he pointed to the natural world as a page on which the gospel is written. When the cold hand of winter is withdrawn and the sun gently warms the earth, when the spring flowers begin to push their way up to the light, and when the dormant woods begin to wake, we are reminded again of the beauty and goodness of the natural world.

And when the church celebrates the mystery of the resurrection, we are reminded of God's care for the beauty and preciousness of human life, and God's call to love as we are loved.

For all its turmoil and conflict, this is a good world, a world with potential, a world where there is enough for everyone. Springtime reminds us that we are cared for; as Jesus challenges us to care.

*Ken*

## Holy Week and Easter Services

**Good Friday 11am**  
followed by hot cross buns

**Easter Sunday 6.30pm**

*All Welcome*

## News . . .

### Scrabble and Afternoon Tea

held on the 28<sup>th</sup> January attracted 30 people. Valerie Dent produced a wonderful traditional Afternoon Tea with various sandwiches, scones, jam and cream, sausage rolls – 'veggie' ones too, and various cakes. Donations amounted to £156.

### Turkish and Syrian Earthquake

In February, £500 was sent from Church funds via the Christian Aid Appeal.

**Christian Aid** charity received £208 from the collection at the Carol Service in December at which Sir Bob Russell read one of the lessons. He was a Patron of the Church's Organ Restoration Appeal launched in 2018.

## A Coronation themed Tea and Quiz

is planned at the Chapel on  
**Saturday 13 May at 4pm**

It is a 'bring and share' tea. No charge  
Let me know in advance if you are coming 01206 240442 or e-mail:  
[arpchapel@btinternet.com](mailto:arpchapel@btinternet.com)  
so we have some idea of numbers.

## Monthly mid-week Activities at the Chapel

*All are welcome to join with us*

## Preachers in March, April and May

**On Sundays at 6.30pm**

URC unless indicated

### MARCH

5 Rev'd Ken Forbes  
12 Rev'd Andrew Royal  
19 Brian Clow  
26 William Glasse

### APRIL

2 Rev'd Ken Forbes *Palm Sunday*  
9 William Glasse *Easter Day*  
16 Colin and Grace Baldock  
23 Rev'd Ian Scott-Thompson (Anglican)  
30 Canon Roy Tricker (Anglican)

### MAY

7 Rev'd Jenny Martin  
14 William Glasse  
21 Rev'd Ken Forbes  
28 Colin and Grace Baldock *Pentecost*

## A time for reflection . . .

*Kindly spring again is here  
Trees and fields in bloom appear;  
Where in winter all was snow,  
Now the flowers in clusters grow.*

John Newton 1725-1807

*Praise God for His budding green,  
April's resurrection-scene;  
Hearts, bow down, and voices, sing  
Praise and love to nature's King.*

William C Gannett 1840-1923

*Had Christ that once was slain  
Ne'er burst his three-days' prison  
Our faith had been in vain;  
But now has Christ arisen!*

George Woodward 1848-1934

**First Wednesday 10.30am**

**Coffee and Chat**

Informal, no charge

**Second Thursday 10.30am**

**Study and discussion Group**





St. Barnabas Church, Chappel



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



All Saints Church, Wakes Colne

**Treasurer: Richard Bareham Tel: 01206 210799 Email: richdcb@aol.com**  
**PCC Member – Christine Maskell Tel: 01206 241261 Email: lbriar@aol.com**

Dear Readers,

I cannot believe that the last time I was writing this piece we were entering Advent and awaiting Christmas, it doesn't seem possible, time has just flown by. We are now entering the period of Lent which starts with Ash Wednesday which occurs on February 22nd and lasts for six weeks. It is a time of reflection, prayer, and contemplation, thinking of Jesus's time in the desert where he spent 40 days and nights reflecting, fasting, praying and listening to his father's plans for him. He was sorely tempted in the desert just as we are on occasions in our own everyday lives, but he resisted. Christians often fast themselves during Lent or give up certain foods and treats and some go on a pilgrimage. Two bishops Bishop Guli and Bishop Roger of Chelmsford and Colchester respectively are participating in a Lenten Pilgrimage and will be visiting Wakes Colne church on March 6th as part of their journey, we very much look forward to welcoming them that afternoon where prayers will be offered followed by the essential's tea and cake!! The last week of Lent is referred to as Holy Week, Palm Sunday at the start where Palm crosses will be handed out in church to symbolise when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt, where the streets were lined with his followers exalting him and hailing him as The King of the Jews, palms strewn in front of him on the road he travelled into the city. Four days later we come to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, sad days in the Christian calendar with Jesus being tried in court and hung on a cross to die but on Easter Day when he rose from the dead we can truly celebrate that, 'Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again', words we so often recite from our worship book at Sunday services (I will be listing all our services at both churches on this page).

Lent always coincides with the start of Spring, my favourite season of the year. All around I am observing clusters of snowdrops, bulbs bursting into life even a few daffodils where their blooms are about to open turning their faces up to the sun. Lambs are being born, greenery is starting to appear on trees and shrubs, the whole earth is awakening after a lengthy winter slumber, how lucky are we to be experiencing all the wonders of nature God has provided just for US. How I wish the people of Ukraine, Syria and Turkey were also experiencing a beautiful Spring, rather than the ravages of war and the devastation from earthquakes, so much loss of life and for those that survive grief, hunger, homelessness. and pain, we pray for all of them that aid will come swiftly to them, that the war will cease and their terrible suffering end.

Mother's Day will be celebrated in March a time to give thanks for all mothers, foster mothers, carers, for all they have given to children throughout their lives. In church we will be presenting all mothers/carers with a potted plants a thank you and a small token of appreciation. An Easter service will be held at Chappel church for the schoolchildren and their parents and families, a palm cross will be presented to all the pupils in the school, we look forward to welcoming them all very much (dates listed below).

Our last celebration to mention is King Charles' coronation where we will make our first service in the month of May into a Coronation service to give thanks for our new sovereign.

I wish you all a very happy time enjoying the beautiful Spring months to the full.  
Happy Easter.

With all God's blessings to you Christine Maskell



### March Services

Sunday March 5th Morning service 10am Wakes Colne (first week open after winter closure)  
Sunday March 19th MOTHERS DAY  
10am Chappel  
Sunday March 26th Holy Communion  
10am Wakes Colne  
Friday March 31st Easter School Service  
9.30am Chappel

### April Services

Sunday April 2nd Palm Sunday 10 am Chappel  
Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 10am Chappel  
Sunday April 23rd Benefice Holy Communion  
10 am Chappel

### May Services

Sunday May 7th CORONATION Commemorative  
service 10am Wakes Colne  
Sunday May 28th Holy Communion Benefice  
10am Wakes Colne  
**We would love to welcome you ALL to any  
of the services**



## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

Essex County Council recently had its budget meeting, where we decided on how to spend our £2 billion revenue budget and our extensive capital budget. We spend approximately 2/3 of the budget on adult and young person's social care and this continues to be a huge pressure and challenge for the council. Excellent and dignified care is an absolute priority.

However, the service that most people interact with on a day to day basis is our highway network. That is why I am pleased to have voted for an additional £9 million for highways maintenance, including for pavements, on top of a planned rise that had already been budgeted in. This increase is more than double that any other party proposed. I promised to secure a fair deal for our Highways and I am delivering on that. If you have any highways issues, please do get in touch on [Cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk) with details and we will do what we can to get the resources to resolve it.

I also know how important road safety and traffic management is. Yet, it can all too often be too bureaucratic, expensive and cumbersome to make those improvements. That is why we will be announcing changes in March to make it easier to deliver on those priorities.

We have managed to increase our spending on front line services this coming financial year while keeping council tax increases one of the lowest in the country. ECC's council tax will increase 3.5% with 2% of this ring-fenced for adult social care. In a time of cost of living pressures, I was determined to minimise any rises on households.

On road safety and traffic management, I am pleased to have financially supported the introduction of a new speed indicator device along on the A1124 with my locality budget. I am hopeful that at the time of print, this will have been installed to help with reducing speeds. We are also waiting for a date for the implementation of the weight restriction on Lane Road and gateway improvements in Chappel. On Station Road, I have submitted an application to the Local Highways Panel for a variable 20 mph limit to assist in safer speeds at key times. This is after my request for a full 20mph had not been supported. There will also be repairs to the soft lighting on the road to the station. I have also supported a reduction and consistent speed limit between the A120 and Chappel and Wakes Colne.

On waste, Colchester Borough Council is proposing to introduce garden waste charges and scrap the waste drop-off service. I am opposed to such proposals and I will be voting against it when the vote comes. Essex County Council is trialing a booking system for use of its recycling centres from March 13th to help cut waiting times and reduce unauthorised commercial waste. This trial is an extension of the larger vehicle booking system throughout the county and the existing all booking system in Rayleigh. The system works well in Rayleigh and Suffolk so I hope it will achieve similar results here. I have raised with the cabinet member concerns that this may cause fly tipping, but I am reassured by a recent investigation by DEFRA that concluded booking systems do not lead to such an outcome.

The A12 widening project to provide three lanes in each carriageway between Chelmsford and Marks Tey, overseen by National Highways, is progressing. Essex County Council supports the principal of the widening but has objected to National Highways' proposals for some of the junctions. There are various reasons for these objections but the main one is the impact of the junctions on increased volumes of traffic on the local road network. The £35 million investment in resurfacing the A12 between Marks Tey and Stanway has begun. The works are expected to last until late 2023/early 2024 with the road kept open by a contraflow system. We are liaising with National Highways and Essex Highways to ensure that the impact on the local road network and journeys on the A12 itself is minimised as we appreciate this is a significantly disruptive piece of work. We will keep the community updated on these two key road schemes. There is, at the time of writing, no further news on the new A120 despite some media speculation that it had been scrapped.

**Councillor Lewis Barber**

We're now in preparation for the year ahead, the first game of the season is only 10 weeks away. The mild autumn has really helped our ground recover from the drought of last years' summer.

2022 was another successful season, congratulations to our 1<sup>st</sup> team, captained by Chris Carter on gaining promotion to division 5, which is the fourth consecutive promotion. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> team finished mid-table, following promotion.

Our annual dinner & awards evening was held at Colne Valley Golf Club on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you to everybody who came, and to all those who won an award:



1 <sup>st</sup> Team		2 <sup>nd</sup> Team	
<b>Batting</b>	Tom Whiteman	<b>Batting</b>	Jack Cousins
<b>Bowling</b>	Tom Whiteman	<b>Bowling</b>	Harry Carter
<b>Fielding</b>	Charlie Johnson	<b>Fielding</b>	Emily Eves
<b>Performance</b>	Chris Carter	<b>Performance</b>	Bella Johnson
<b>Captains Player</b>	Rob Swan	<b>Captains Player</b>	Bella Johnson
3 <sup>rd</sup> Team		Ladies	
<b>Batting</b>	Maxwell Jones	<b>Batting</b>	Marianne Morgan
<b>Bowling</b>	Colin Brown	<b>Bowling</b>	Jo Dolman
<b>Players Player</b>	Maxwell Jones	<b>Fielding</b>	Emily Marsh
<b>Performance</b>	Zach Dale	<b>Players Player</b>	Jill Bruce
<b>Captains Player</b>	James Godsmark		
Club			
<b>Sixes</b>	Chris Carter	<b>Newcomer</b>	Vishal Jha
<b>Young Player</b>	Maxwell Jones	<b>Clubman</b>	Chris Carter

We're now looking ahead to the 2022 season; indoor nets have already started for the adult sides at the superb new facilities at the Northern Gateway opposite the Colchester United Stadium. Please join us on Wednesday evenings between 7-8pm.

We offer cricket for everyone with two league sides who play on Saturdays, a Sunday team that plays friendlies to help familiarise those 14-17 with adult cricket and also our ladies softball team, that plays in local competitions; please contact Jo Johnson if you are interested in joining our ladies!

For the younger residents of the villages, we currently offer training and matches from 5 year olds through the ECB Schemes 'All Stars Cricket' and 'Dynamo Cricket' then into Kwik Cricket and Hard Ball, where training takes place on Monday evenings. If your children would be interested in seeing what we do and what we are about, please come along and speak with Jo Johnson or Bill Maytham.

Our full fixture list for the 2023 season is now available on our website; [cwc.play-cricket.com](http://cwc.play-cricket.com). For those who may not necessarily want to play, why not come to the ground and enjoy a good game of cricket next summer? We really would love for more people from the villages come and support us, the sun will be shining once again and the bar will be open – come and enjoy our facilities.

### Dates:

AGM will take place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 11am start @ The Hobbies. It is the perfect time to have your say, or come along to meet us and see what we can offer you all.

First home fixtures: 1<sup>st</sup> team, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April vs Harwich. 2<sup>nd</sup> team, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April vs Yoxford.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to our Chairman, Harry and his family who welcomed their second child, Willow in November. Vice Chairman, Ross and his family who will be welcoming their second child in April. Henry Dow and his partner will be welcoming their first child in June.

A big thank you must to go all the committee members, for the numerous hours that you all put in to ensure the club is well run and always thinking ahead, looking where we can improve.

Again, as a club that needs to move forward and continually look to improve so that we not only retain our current members but also attract new ones, we are always looking at ways that we can to bring ourselves into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and set us up for the future. Last season we live streamed our first ever match, and we will be looking to ensure this is a normality going forward. 2023/2024 will see our facilities within our clubhouse start to change, modernising the layout which will include a designated female changing area.

From all at CWCCC, I hope that we see some of you at our picturesque cricket ground one weekend in the summer.



## **CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE WOMENS INSTITUTE**

We began the new year with a most appropriate evening by Sarah Johnson, a chiropodist from Sudbury. Sarah told us how to look after our feet and shared lots of information on the best products to use, the best footwear and what not to do. There was question and answer time so Sarah was able to help members with any problems.

On February 15<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday which was very well attended. Mrs Christine Attmere showed us how to create some beautiful floral table displays which she made look so easy – they were themed with spring flowers and generously given as raffle prizes. We all hoped to win one but there were only four going up for grabs. In true WI style we had nibbles, cakes and bubbles and lots of social conversation.

On the lead up to this anniversary a bit of delving through the archives ensued and it was discovered in the village hall minutes that there had in fact been a WI in 1928 but it had closed due to lack of members. The next one was formed in February 1948 from which our minute books begin and when Essex County recognised our village WI group. It is always so interesting and amusing to read ancient minutes and seeing how much life has changed through the years – I can't imagine any of our current members entering a darning competition – but you never know!

For your diary here are the fixtures for the next few months:

**March 15<sup>th</sup> – Treasures beneath your feet by Gordon Bailey**

**April 19<sup>th</sup> – My Creative Journey by Amanda Sutherland**

**May 17<sup>th</sup> – Annual General Meeting**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> – Garden afternoon at Jukes House Wakes Colne by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Irvine**

Meetings are in the village hall at 7.30 – please come and join us with refreshments as always.

[Dorothyb.crees@googlemail.com](mailto:Dorothyb.crees@googlemail.com)

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**GET REAL FIBRE**





Yes, it's that time of year again when we start to plan for this year's OPEN GARDEN event. We are hoping to replicate last year's success in attracting around 200 visitors and raising £2k for the fabric fund for our two churches - plus having a fabulous, jolly good day for everyone to boot.

As previously, we are keen to have a selection of gardens from eco/wild to national garden standard **AND** everything in between.

If you are interested in participating and opening your garden this year, please let me know.

Also, we **absolutely** cannot do this without the support of some fantastic volunteers to help stage this event. Perhaps you are able to volunteer to help out on the day for a couple of hours, or donate plants, cakes or a prize for the Tombola table and, if you can guarantee some sunshine, we will love you forever !

If you are interested and able to help out in any way, please let me know.

denise.stocker@woodbre.co.uk or 07967 000280

CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL

## ROCK CHOIR CONCERT

**SUNDAY, 19 MARCH 2023**

**2.30 pm – start**

**Mothering Sunday – so why not treat Mother to a 'West End Performance'**

**Well known and loved .. Gospel, Mo-town, pop and rock songs .. a 'West End' performance for £10 !!**

**Ticket cost include: - tea / coffee – delicious cakes. Raffle tickets will be available on the day.**

For further information please contact Christine Underwood : 07983 242 517

**Ticket only event ~ available from:**

**Chappel & WC Village Post Office and Store**

Patrick Dent: 01787 220147 – rushdenbeancounters@gmail.com

**The Village Hall needs funds to help keep it running for all C&WC residents to enjoy .. your kind support will help us to do this.**

**THANK YOU.**

## CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL

### Table Top Sale & Coffee Morning

**Have a spring clean and sell your unwanted items at our Table Top sale**

**large table £10 / small table £5**

contact Christine Underwood  
to book your table  
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email: christineunderwood506@gmail.com

**Come and join us for a coffee & look around at our Village Hall improvements**

**Cake donations are welcome on the day**

**Saturday 18th March  
10am – 3pm**



All proceeds to the Village Hall

### CHANGE OF VENUE COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY MEETING 7.30pm WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH WHITE COLNE VILLAGE HALL

**Bures Road, White Colne, CO6 2QA**

Or Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89866108949>

Please email [jillbruce321@gmail.com](mailto:jillbruce321@gmail.com) to receive the link by email

Climate Change in Chappel and Wakes Colne Spring 2023

Using renewable energy saves money, (renewables are now up to 9 times cheaper than gas), and also cuts our carbon footprint, helping us to protect our climate and biodiversity. 40% of UK emissions now come from households, what we do in our own homes makes a huge difference to the UK's energy security.

Our community renewable energy project meeting is going ahead on Wednesday 22nd March at 7.30pm, a bit later than previously announced to make it easier for more people to attend. It will now be held at **WHITE COLNE village hall** as they have broadband so that those unable to attend in person will be able to join by zoom using this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89866108949>. If you email me at [jillbruce321@gmail.com](mailto:jillbruce321@gmail.com) I can email the link to you.

The meeting should take about an hour and will be followed with tea/coffee and cake, giving time for you to ask all your questions. It will be chaired by Sue Chamley, Chair of Chappel Parish Council and Jane Taylor, Chair of White Colne Parish Council. This meeting is just to give you information, you won't be asked to make any commitment. You should receive a letter with more details before 22nd March, if you don't and are interested, please let me know and I'll email it to you.

The householder/business will have a range of options:

- Buy the solar array on your roof/land outright.
- Buy the systems on a 'Pay as you Use' contract (once paid for, the system becomes yours)
- Just buy cheaper green electricity from the ESCO

Please bring all your questions to the meeting, we will have Carole Randall, Low Carbon Officer, Essex County Council and Alex Templeton from The University of East London there to help.

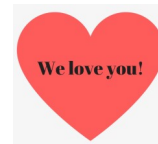
So cheaper greener electricity, less reliant on the national grid, providing benefit for the community. A faster way to net zero. I hope to see you there.

Jill Bruce  
Chappel and Wakes Colne WI  
Lead Climate Ambassador, Federation of Essex WIs  
Email: [jillbruce321@gmail.com](mailto:jillbruce321@gmail.com)





## OUR LOCAL TREASURE & POSTMASTER CHRIS EATON RETIRES



Thank you Chris for always having time to listen to everyone's day to day chatter. Your warm and welcoming smile and cuddles will be missed!



"I would like to say a big thank you to all the people that worked to make Chris's retirement party such a super event and to all the people that attended. It was so heart-warming to see so many turn up, I don't think we would have got many more people into the hall if we had tried! It was testament to how well Chris and Jinny are loved and respected. Happy retirement Chris."

Glynis Parker

### Bill Wendon's speech of thanks from Chris Eaton's Retirement Party on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023

I met Chris some 60 years ago when he travelled from Luton at the weekends to visit his sister Betty and Mick, who owned the village shop in Chappel near Chappel church. We would go out for the occasional drink and overtime became friends. Chris moved to Chappel in 1967 and lived in a cottage in the Street, at that time he was working for Findus as a salesman. He would park his car in my parents' driveway. I quickly realised my place as my mother would get up in the morning to de-ice his car and clean his windscreen so he could just jump in and go to work. My car was parked behind Chris' and guess what, it was still iced up and dirty. It was clear he was becoming the favourite one! In 1969 he was best man for Sue and me. In 1974 he was playing dominoes in the Swan pub with Mr Rowlands who owned the shop and post office. A deal was made and they agreed to swap premises, Chris and his family took over the shop and post office and Mr Rowlands moves into the cottage in the Street. That was the start of 48 years of service to the villages, approximately 14, 976 days. He became postmaster as well as running the shop with his wife and 2 young daughter Louise and Katy.

Chris was ahead of the times, offering the first 1974 version of on-line shopping. You would put your order in the little red book and the goods would be delivered in his lunch hour.

Chris has helped and employed lots of local people, including my daughter Sally.

In his time, he has survived two serious floods. It takes a strong person to start again and continue to be the local hub of the village. Well done, Chris.

Then roll forward to March 2020 when COVID hit and the world went into lockdown. Thank you to both Chris and Jinny for keeping everyone in village going. I don't know what we would have done without the shop being open. Thanks to Jinny for the daily 5am start, getting up to go the wholesalers to keep the shop stocked with fresh food, supplies and toilet rolls.



Chris a wonderful man and a wonderful lifelong friend. You're the best. Pete and Pat Ashby

Well, what can I say about Chris. From telegram boy in Luton to sub-postmaster in the villages of Chappel and Wakes Colne. Over 45 years of dedicated service to the residents of those two villages and beyond. Seven days a week with just a few days off to play golf in Ireland. A little humorous incident happened in the office a few years back. I was queuing for stamps. In front of me was a gentleman of some money out of his bank account. (Do we remember when people used real money)? Chris said put card in, now your card out, put it back in, but you put in your pin what number pin did Chris, it is 5678. (Not the actual numbers of course). Turned out the man had a job remembering his pin so told Chris what it was in case he forgot it in the future. Well Chris you deserve your retirement, we shall miss you. Regards, A telegram boy from Romford, we shall know who I am!





## Nature notes

There are so many good places within easy reach of the village, and after visiting them for a first time I keep saying why haven't we been here before. One such is Welney, just beyond Ely so only a bit over an hour away. Its main fame perhaps is the wintering Whooper Swans. The reserve has an excellent huge enclosed (and heated) hide, its windows overlooking the shallow lake and marsh, and the person doing the daily midday feeding routine does a good amusing commentary about the swans and ducks while they push and shove around his wheelbarrow of grain.

We went during that early December cold period. Apart from loads of Whoopers, there were several Short-eared Owls hunting along the drainage canal bank, and a Barn Owl too. On the feeders outside the restaurant were several Tree Sparrows, quite rare birds these days, several hares out on the fields, and three Cranes flew over the terrace area outside.

Locally I've seen a Barn Owl at Great Tey and several Red Kites. My feeders as usual have attracted large numbers of Goldfinches and Green Finches. Greedy birds, through binoculars you see they spill as much as they eat, and the spillage attracts the ground feeders. There have been many Chaffinches, and a single male Brambling once in January. Also a male Blackcap put in an appearance for a few days, along with a Nuthatch and a regular Great Spotted Woodpecker. Over a ten-minute period in January, while my morning coffee dribbled through the filter machine, I saw ten species – three finches, three tits, Nuthatch, Blackcap, House Sparrow and Dunnock. Also in the garden, a couple of Redwings have been foraging in the hedges, and close up you realise just how beautifully patterned they are.

Over at Abberton, a Smew had been reported. I was driving to Mersea to pick up some oysters one January morning, and stopped off to try to see it. 08.30, no-one around and no birds either on the water apart from a few distant swans. I watched for 2 minutes, nothing happening, hand on car door to go, and then a single duck flew over the causeway and plopped down onto the water just some 50 yards away. A female Smew. Result! as they say.

Then a twitch at Hanningfield reservoir south of Chelmsford just before Xmas. A Spotted Sandpiper, a vagrant from North America, had been there for a few weeks and eventually I realised I should try to see it. I sat in a hide with several others, and over the next hour most drifted off to other parts of the reservoir leaving just 2 of us there. The bird then suddenly appeared in front of us and stayed for a minute probing the mud. Quite frankly I would have said Common Sandpiper, the distinguishing differences seem to be very fine, but on this I trust to better judgement.

It was very sad to read of the death of Ronald Blythe in January. He was a near neighbour of ours, living over at Wormingford. An acute chronicler of rural life and nature, and a churchman, he wrote many books and in particular is famous for the *Akenfield* portrayal of Suffolk life, which was later filmed. He was still writing close to his death at 100.

I met him once some five years ago. Friends from London were visiting, and Rob an artist wanted to see the house, which he'd inherited from the artist John Nash. We drove over and walked up the lane towards the house. Its garden opens straight onto the lane. Rob has little shame and immediately walked into it and got close to the front door. Whereupon it opened and there was Ronald. They immediately started a conversation, and credentials established, the four of us were invited in. It was lunchtime and his housekeeper was getting the meal ready. She clearly thought inviting complete strangers in was a curious thing to do, but by now Ronald and Rob were in deep conversation about Nash and other art stuff. We sat around the kitchen table for over half an hour, and I think we'd probably have been invited to stay had there been enough food. I don't think he was at all lonely, just very happy to chat to interested passers-by.

Tony Witcher



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## Michael Gwynn



Mike sadly died on Monday 30th January 2023, peacefully at home. He was born in Worcester in 1941. He had been a resident of Chappel for more than 50 years and he served as a Parish Councillor for the Parish of Chappel as well as supporting many village organisations and charities. I'm sure many people will remember him fondly seeing him walk down to The Swan for his lunchtime pint. The family will be holding a celebration of Mike's life in The Swan once it has re-opened after refurbishment.



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## Bee Lines



When I heard that The Reporter was moving from six to four issues per year I thought that the increased interval would give me plenty of time to contemplate what to include in the next issue. Not so, as the time has simply flown past.

Firstly, we had Christmas, free of Covid and its restrictions for the first year in several. Joy, however, turned to despair when the whole family tested positive for Covid shortly after Boxing Day. So much for my happy new year!

The bees have had it easier, as they often seem to do. Some variable weather, including hard frosts and lots of rain have kept them largely confined to their hives for much of the time. It is always a concern at such times as to whether there is still life within the hives, but the vigilant beekeeper can read a few signs which might reassure him.

The first thing to look for is the presence of dead bees outside the hive. A few bees will die most days, but they will be ejected from the hive by the undertaker bees. On warm days, the corpses will be removed some distance, but on colder days they will simply be kicked out of the entrance. The local blue tits and sparrows will soon clear up the bodies, but if they start to pile up, it is a sure sign that all is not well in the hive.

Another good pointer is to look underneath the hive. My hives are fitted with open mesh floors, as they are more hygienic. If stores are being used up or young bees are emerging, the wax cappings from the individual cells fall through the floor, giving a characteristic pattern on the ground below, and reassuring the keeper that there is still activity within the hive.

The ultimate test of course is to see the bees flying. They will fly on warm days if the temperature goes above about twelve degrees, although this varies from hive to hive. In early winter, these flights are usually for comfort, for bees are naturally hygienic and will not foul their nests if at all avoidable. Towards spring, they fly in search of pollen, to feed their emerging brood, and later for nectar, to sustain themselves and to store in order to begin the process of making honey.

This year, by Valentine's Day, the bees were out on the wing. They were flying from all six of my hives, in varying numbers. I thought it was a little early for them to be collecting pollen, but sure enough, a few were returning with the tell-tale sight of full pollen baskets on their back legs.

The colour of pollen varies between plant species, so it would appear that my bees had found sources from snowdrops, a burnt red colour, and the yellow pollen of hazel catkins, amongst others. This is the most reliable indication that all is well within the hives.

Dangers still lurk, however. Woodpeckers must be guarded against, as must be mice. There seems to be an increase in the badger population over the last couple of years, and badgers are powerful enough to overturn a hive in order to consume its contents. They are also more useful in late summer, when they often dig up and destroy, by eating them, ground nests of wasps, which would otherwise try to raid the hives for their honey content.

So, all in all, it's looking pretty good at the moment. It will be another couple of months before I can take a look inside the hives to make sure all is well. Hopefully, I can report on that in the next issue.

Your bee correspondent, The Old Drone

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## CHAPPEL PARISH COUNCIL



### Speed Watch – Volunteers Needed

If you could spare some time, the Speed Watch Team are looking for more volunteers. Please contact the Parish Clerk so we can put you in touch with the co-ordinator Cllr Dent.

### Allotment Plot Vacancy

We have one plot vacant at a cost of £40 for the year. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in finding out more.

### Colchester City – A Year of Celebration

Throughout 2023 there will be an exciting programme of events taking place across the city centre and surrounding towns and villages, enabling residents, visitors and businesses to come together to celebrate becoming a city once more.

You can discover the full programme of events taking place on the Visit Colchester website, please note events are being added throughout the year so please check back regularly:  
[visitcolchester.com/whats-on/year-of-celebration](https://visitcolchester.com/whats-on/year-of-celebration)



### Essex County Council Recycling Centre

Please note that from the 13<sup>th</sup> March you will need to book a slot to visit a recycling centre. Full details can be found at: <https://www.loveessex.org/news-and-ideas/recycling-centre-bookings/>

### Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings are due to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March & 17<sup>th</sup> April. These meetings will be held in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. If you would like an issue raised, but would rather not attend a Public Meeting, please feel free to email the Parish Clerk.

The Agenda and Approved Minutes of all meetings are placed on the Parish Council Noticeboard and also on our Parish Council website [www.chappel.org](http://www.chappel.org)

If you have something to report and you're not sure who to report it to, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to report the problem to the right authorities on your behalf. Please email the Parish Council with as much detail and if possible photographs to [parishclerk@chappel.org](mailto:parishclerk@chappel.org)

Contact details: Website: [www.chappel.org](http://www.chappel.org)  
Chappel Parish Council <https://www.facebook.com/ChappelPC/>  
Chairman: Sue Chamley Email: [sue.chamley@chappel.org](mailto:sue.chamley@chappel.org)  
Clerk: Helen Cook Email: [parishclerk@chappel.org](mailto:parishclerk@chappel.org)  
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## A Heritage of Crime Prevention for the Future



Back in 1829, Sir Robert Peel (the “Father of Modern Policing”) decreed that there are nine basic principles of Policing. The first principle and mission for Police Constables is to prevent crime and disorder, and that police effectiveness is not measured on the number of arrests, but on the lack of crime!

These principles still ring true today. Reducing and preventing crime is not only better for the economy but more importantly our health and wellbeing. As dealing with the aftermath of crime and ASB can leave a lasting impact on victim of crime and the wider community.

Everyday within Essex Police our Officers and Staff from our Community Policing Teams, Community Safety and Engagement Officers, Rural Crime, Business Crime Teams and Fraud Coordinators deliver crime prevention advice to help the public in reducing the opportunities for crime and ASB.

For specialist crime prevention advice, the force has a small number Crime Prevention and Designing out Crime Officers (DOCO), who provide to tactical support for all officers and staff. Designing out Crime Officers looks at mitigating crime and ASB risk not just for the present, but for the future. A carefully designed building and wider environment with security at the heart of it is better than retrofitting measures later to fix a problem that could have been foreseen.

Additionally, as part of the planning process, the Designing out Crime Officers comment on new planning applications to ensure that the opportunities for crime and disorder to be ‘designed out’ at the earliest opportunity. They review various planning applications from new housing estates, hospitals, schools, town centre regenerations to name but a few.

The Designing out Crime Officers promote ‘Secured by Design’ ([www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)) to ensure that new planning applications have considered the impact of crime in their design.

Secured by Design (SBD) is the official police security initiative that’s aims at reducing the opportunities for crime and ASB. Developers around the UK can achieve SBD awards for incorporating crime prevention measures and techniques into their developments in all kinds of building sectors. SBD also developed and maintains a product-based police accreditation scheme—the Police Preferred Specification where independently tested security products and building material can be found.

In conclusion crime prevention is not just reactive and concerned with just the here and now, its core is around creating safer and exclusive places for everyone at all times.

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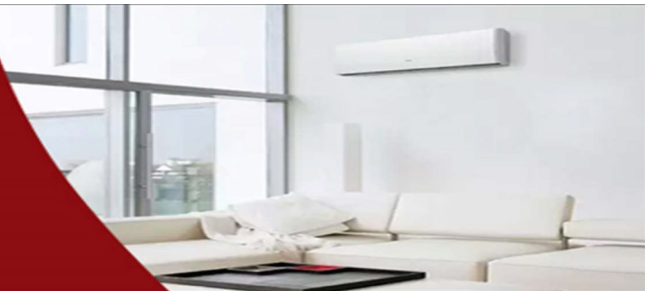
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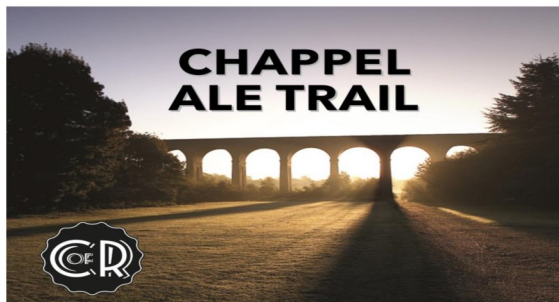
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## CHAPPEL ALE TRAIL



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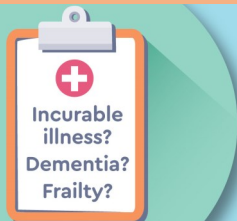


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## CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Events, like buses, come along two at a time ...

**Coffee Morning and TableTop Sale on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> March,  
10-3pm.**

We are hoping that everyone will have a good winter sort-out in their houses, garages and sheds and book a small table for £5 or a larger one for £10 and profit from items you no longer need.

Table fees will go towards our Village Hall funds and any donations of cakes and goodies for the coffee morning would be greatly appreciated. Most of all though, just come and enjoy yourselves, meet up with your neighbours and enjoy seeing the latest improvements to the Hall.

**Rock Choir Concert on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30p.m.**

This event is a gem!

It already has a loyal following which increases each year and is an event not to be missed – especially as it is on our own villagers' doorsteps!

It is a ticket only event, and space is limited so next time you visit our Post Office be sure to ask for yours!

Proceeds all go to our beloved Village Hall, so if you are able to donate a raffle prize or donate cakes please bring them along.

**This year our Village Hall is one hundred years old!**

Yes, our first AGM was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1923 when it was chaired by Mr. J. Lister Godlee. The Managing Committee were Mrs. Godlee and Miss Poole, nominated by the Womens' Institute, Mr. W. Everitt and Mr. H. C. Percival, nominated by the Mens' Social Club and Dr. Courtauld and Mrs. J. Lister Godlee, appointed by the General Meeting. We take this opportunity to thank them and all who have since given their time and expertise for their ideas, enterprise and efforts in creating and sustaining our much loved and cherished Village Hall.

**By the way ...**

Talk about a rise in the cost of living – in 1923 the Womens' Institute and the Mens' Social Club were each charged 7/6d for hiring the hall and an additional 1/- for the kitchen!

### Wine Tasting Evening

This very cheery event took place on 25<sup>th</sup> November and it was wonderful to see our Village Hall magnificently decorated and transformed out of all recognition!

Peter Watts supplied some superb wines for tasting which it is fair to say were enjoyed by all and bought by many to enhance Christmas celebrations. It is only to be wondered how many of the wines really survived to see Christmas!

Special thanks are due to Linda, Jessica and Alice Goodchild, Teresa and Al Thorogood and Sue Chamley who all presented a swinging evening!

And an additional special thank you for their very generous donation to our Village Hall funds.

### Chris Eaton retires ...

What can we say except to say that the Hall has not seen an event like it for many a year. It seemed as if the whole two villages turned up laden with cakes and other goodies to wish Chris a very happy retirement and it can safely be said that the proverbial good time was had by all. Special thanks to Glynis Parker and her cheery team for organising such a memorable event!

### Hire our Village Hall

Contact Christine Underwood on 07983-242-517 or e-mail [Christineunderwood506@gmail.com](mailto:Christineunderwood506@gmail.com)

**Francesca Mead**





## WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WORKING FOR YOUR PARISH

### Chairwoman's report. February 2023

Towards the end of the council year in April and the beginning of a new one in May there are a few relatively good news items, the usual works in progress and some dates for your diaries.

Residents will be pleased to know that the precept for Wakes Colne has been set so that there will be no increase to households in that part of the community charge. As I write, we do not yet know of Colchester City Council's (CCC) or Essex County Council's (ECC) charges.

At last, after deciding to purchase a Vehicle Activated System in October 2021, and finally obtaining the necessary permissions from ECC for its location and the pole installation, outside the village hall where the Speed Watch team do checks, we have been able to place an order for the device. As there is a 4-6-week lead in time, it may be connected in April.

Also, after many months without a councillor, we have been able to co-opt Frances Hounslow. We welcome her, with her knowledge and love of Wakes Colne, to the team of seven.

Several matters are still ongoing: we await the flooding alert signage promised by ECC for Chappel Corner by the Post Office, and the Unsuitable for Heavy Vehicle signage for each end of Lane Rd; replacement of the solar lighting in Station Approach, should be undertaken by Greater Anglia; the solar light at the bus stop on the village hall side has been removed to investigate repair; a revised, updated, local walks booklet, including the new walk safely up Tyburn Hill, is in progress and, on publication, will be made available for free to residents.

We should be grateful for your help in replenishing the book stock in the telephone book exchanges; please leave just a few at a time; they will then be stamped. A small team plans to replant the four planters at the bus shelters in May. We should welcome help with watering during the summer months; there are water butts and watering cans at each location. Please contact the parish clerk ([parishclerk@wakescolne.org](mailto:parishclerk@wakescolne.org)) if you would be willing to be added to a watering rota.

### Dates for your diaries:

From 13<sup>th</sup> March it will be necessary to book a visit to any ECC recycling centre to deposit waste. The booking system will be available online from 27<sup>th</sup> February on the CCC website. Residents are being asked to report any fly tipping on the website.

A public meeting on Solar Energy is being organised by Jill Bruce, our local Climate Change Ambassador, in White Colne village hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 19.30.

The annual parish meeting, organised this year by Wakes Colne Parish Council (WCPC), is an opportunity for both WCPC and Chappel Parish Council to make an annual public report and to hear about the activities and events of all the local organisations represented. We cordially invite the organisations, residents who kindly undertake tasks which improve our community, and villagers to share in this event on 26<sup>th</sup> April at 19.15 in the village hall, where we shall celebrate all the many contributions with refreshments.

Further ahead, the Memories Project, which is recording residents' memories of living here over the decades and collecting memorabilia, will hold another get together on 20<sup>th</sup> July in the village hall. The team will report back on progress to date and offer opportunities for villagers to share their recollections together and with us. Work is proceeding steadily as we uncover a lot of local history to be lodged at the Essex Records Office and the University of Essex and select key material for a booklet. If you would like to make a contribution please contact the parish clerk ([parishclerk@wakescolne.org](mailto:parishclerk@wakescolne.org)).

Finally, by early April parish councillors will need to register for the local elections to be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>. As my colleagues have been aware for some time, I shall not be standing again for election. Having been elected to WCPC in January 2012 and been its Chairwoman for the last 2.5 years it has been a privilege to serve the village. I have had a strong connection with for over 60 years. Serving in this voluntary capacity is frustrating in that nothing happens quickly or straightforwardly, determination and attention to detail are required; given that individuals' interests are often concerned, decisions can be controversial and there can be more brickbats, from which there is little redress, than support or even plaudits; but there are also opportunities for creative projects to benefit and take care of the community. I trust that my colleagues will go forward from strength to strength with the roles we have put in place to address, with due consideration and fairness, the responsibilities which the council has placed upon it.

**Monica J. Taylor (Dr.) Chairwoman WCPC.**

## Ambling Arthritics

We are a friendly, small group of 10 or so, who enjoy walking in the local area at our own pace. We have continued to walk during the winter by visiting the Bures Dragon and St Stephen's Chapel, walking around the gardens at Marks Hall and on local footpaths on higher ground. We meet up fortnightly on a Friday at 10.30 am at Station Approach. The next walks are 3, 17 and 31 March for 1.5 – 2 hrs. You are welcome to join us.



## STATION ADOPTERS GROUP

The Station Adopters Group are continuing to strive away at providing a pleasant environment at the Station despite the icy winter chills. However, our small group are working on present and future endeavours to further enhance the area.

Our latest achievement has been the installation of a 'Talking Bench'. Of wooden construction, the bench has been provided by Essex & South Suffolk Railway Partnership and features a press button selection of talks highlighting Chappel & Wakes Colne Villages along with the details of the Railway Museum, the Railways and the viaduct.



We aim to provide a comfortable, restful and contemplative situation for Villagers, passengers and visitors, why not have a wander up to the station and take a rest on the new bench. In addition to the bench Wakes Colne Parish Council have provided two self-watering planters along with providing the plants and potting compost, we are most grateful for the gesture. A local couple along with their young children have kindly volunteered to look after the area for our group.

Our next venture is to ensure we provide a safe environment for bees. Wild flower areas along with a Bee Hotel, this will emerge over the summer months. The Hotel will help solitary bees, bumble bees, lacewings, ladybirds and other insects to multiply along with giving a safe area for children to observe wild life.

Finally, we invite Villagers to provide National Garden Gift Vouchers for the Group to enable us to provide the next seasons flower display. The vouchers are obtainable from garden centres or on-line. If you would like to contribute text 07952 252 118 with your contact details.

**Stephen Scrase Adopters Group leader**





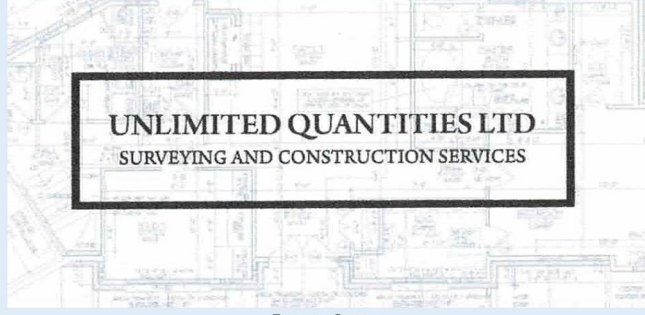
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