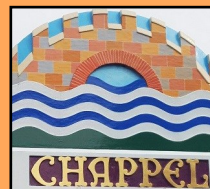


The Chappel & Wakes Colne

Village Reporter



September to November 2023 Issue no. 118

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



Climate Change
Public Meeting with
MP Sir Bernard Jenkins
12th October
Page 5 for details

Exhibition of Work by Local Artists

16th September

See page 7 for details

Evening at the Theatre
in the Village Hall!

21st October

See page 10

Pick up your copy of the
Walks in and Around
Chappel and Wakes
Colne. See page 11



Harvest Festival and
Remembrance Services
details on pages 3 and 4

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 2023 to February 2024 issue - Monday 20th November 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 Website	www.wakescolne.org
Wakes Colne Chairperson	Cllr. Denise Stocker chairman@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

Farm Equipment Sale at Rowneys Farm

Please note that a farm sale will be taking place on the estate of late David Fordham. Viewing on 16th September and the sale is on 17th September.

There may be extra traffic around on these days.

Rowneys Farm, Wakes Colne
CO6 2AS

Info@stanfords-colchester.co.uk
Alison Bishop 07808833992

Chappel and Wakes Colne Station Adopters Group

2024 will be an important year for Chappel and Wakes Colne, the viaduct and the Sudbury line as a whole. The adopters, colleagues in the village and Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership (ESSCRP) are pleased to let you know they are planning ways to celebrate 175 years since the completion of the viaduct and the opening of Chappel and Wakes Colne Station. Events will take place on the weekend of 29th and 30th June 2024, the closest we can get to July 2nd which is the official date. So far the ESSCRP is planning to run their very successful music train on the Sudbury line early evening on Saturday 29th June. There will be a musical hall theme. If you wish to dress up in Victorian dress you can. The East Anglian Railway museum has agreed to run a steam weekend, and the picnic planners for the Platinum Jubilee and Coronation celebrations are working on new plans for the 175th anniversary on the afternoon of Sunday 30th June. The adopters have more ideas, but it is too early to say what they are. If other groups in the village have ideas to celebrate this important event, we can work together. The adopters will do their best to make the station look particularly attractive by then.



Talking of which, on Friday 6 October 2023, the adopters and representatives of the ESSCRP will be at the station between 10am and 12 noon, planting many daffodil bulbs on the approach to the station. We will be providing tea, coffee, soft drinks and cake for those wishing to drop in during the morning. Please come along. If you have young

children at home, they are welcome too. We will provide the bulbs and some tools, but if you could bring a trowel or spade that would be really helpful.

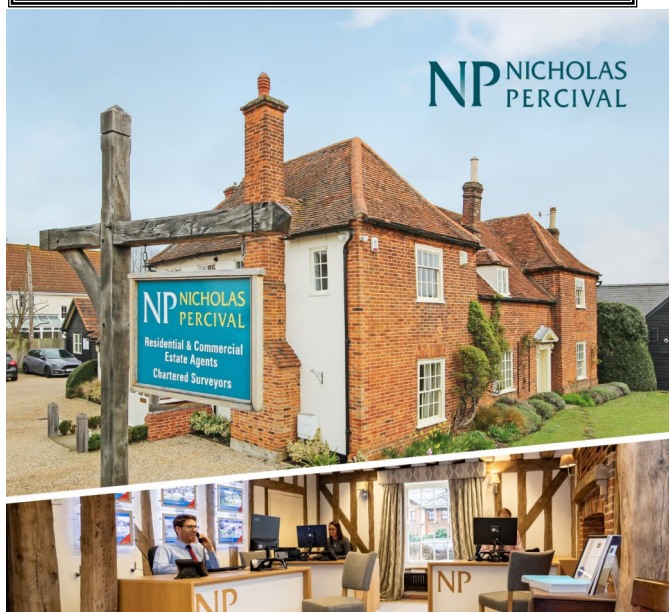
Please put these dates in your diary.

Over the summer we have maintained colourful flowers in the planters. The flowers in the pond have attracted many insects. Stephen Scrase constructed and installed a bee/insect hotel. If you see a smaller annexe in the picture, it was made by one of the younger members of the village.



Large scale models of insects have been placed around the station to make journeys interesting for children. Finally, while the work at the station is not yet finished, we have been impressed by the new lights on the platform and the renovation of some of the 1891 iron work.

Kath Beck Station Adopter



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ALBECQ, STATION RD,
WAKES COLNE, ESSEX, CO6 2DS



The Minister writes . . .

IT'S nearly four decades now since I was ordained as a Christian minister in the Congregational Church in Hamilton, Lanarkshire. I was twenty-five years old, and looking forward to the challenge of serving the church for the next forty years or so. Although it seems to me like just a few years ago, the life of the church – and of the world – has changed radically in that time. And on the face of it, that change hasn't been good for the church. A gradual but steady decline in church attendance of about 4% a year has resulted in a huge number of very small churches struggling to make the voice of the gospel heard in an increasingly indifferent, secular society.

But it isn't all bad news. As in every area of human activity, the church has evolved and developed over the years. While there are a few folks both inside and outside of the church who believe that the Christian faith is eternal and unchanging, there are very many more who understand that constant study, thought and prayer will allow the evolution of new insights and priorities.

I can remember – as I'm sure you can too – when Christian teaching concentrated almost entirely on living a good life in order to receive an eternal reward. It was largely about how we live our lives in order to be blessed (and possibly to avoid punishment). However, close study of the life of Jesus in the gospels reveals that these things were not his main priority. Jesus' teaching was all about relationships, and specifically about relationships that are honest, just, peaceful and forgiving. He wasn't concerned about

judging others (indeed he warned against it), but about bringing the blessing of God's Kingdom to all people – especially the poorest and weakest.

And that blessing is not some vague vision of a better future, but the very practical sharing of what we have to try to ensure that there is enough for everyone and everyone has enough. Enough justice, enough peace, enough food

Ken

Nominated Quarterly Charity –

We nominate a charity to support by our monthly Communion additional collection. This quarter is the **Colchester Foodbank** – the *Trussell Trust*. Last quarter was *Sight Savers*.

The Summer Picnic

in July took place on a very rainy day. Over twenty people enjoyed the evening inside the shelter of a very well presented former Scout Hut in Trudie Cresswell's garden. Donations and a raffle brought £168 for Church funds. Drinks and delicious desserts were provided. We were pleased to have the Rev'd Ian and Mrs Scott-Thompson as guests with us.

Coronation Tea and Quiz

13 May. David Tibbetts-Chaplin devised a royal themed quiz and anagrams of royal residences were posted around the church to solve. Valerie made a Coronation Cake topped with the Union Flag decoration. The 'Bring and Share' tea was enjoyed by all.

Preachers in September, October and November

On Sundays at 6.30pm

URC unless indicated

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Maggie Cogan (Anglican)
- 10 William Glasse
- 17 Rev'd Ken Forbes **HARVEST**
- 24 Colin and Grace Baldock

OCTOBER

- 1 Rev'd Neil Coulson (Baptist)
- 8 Rev'd Ken Forbes
- 15 Rev'd Jenny Martin
- 22 Rev'd Anthony Bushell (Anglican)
- 29 Rev'd Mark Payne (Anglican)

NOVEMBER

- 5 Rev'd Anthony Bushell (Anglican)
- 12 William Glasse *Remembrance*
- 19 Rev'd Ken Forbes
- 26 Alan MacNaught

A prayer . . .

*Let us be God's love in our communities,
challenging prejudice and suspicion with
tolerance and acceptance. May our lives
reflect the generosity of Christ's love in all
we do.*

Monthly mid-week Activities at the Chapel

All are welcome to join with us

First Wednesday 10.30am

Coffee and Chat

Informal, no charge

Second Thursday 10.30am

**Study and
Discussion Group**



Harvest Festival on Sunday 17 September at 6.30pm

Tins of soup required for Colchester nightly 'soup-run' and suitable foodstuffs for decoration and afterwards to go to Colchester Foodbank.

Money collected for *Christian Aid*



St. Barnabas Church, Chappel



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



All Saints Church, Wakes Colne



Rector: Revd Ian Scott-Thompson, tel 01206 215772, email ian.scott.thompson@gmail.com
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



Rev. Ian Scott-Thompson writes...

A journalist wrote recently:

"It has been one of the great failures of the post-war generations not to nurture faith in their children. Many of my contemporaries were not prepared to countermand the children's cry of "It's boring" when summoned to go to church. They even made a virtue of leaving their children free to decide for themselves, without realising that this would also leave them prey to a culture hostile to religious belief."
(Angela Tilby, Church Times, 14th July 2023)

Psalms 71.18 says

"Even when I am old and grey,
do not forsake me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next generation,
your mighty acts to all who are to come."

Many times, I've heard parents and grandparents say that it's not their responsibility to teach Christian faith to children: that's for the school or the church to do. However, children spend the majority of their time at home, and learn most from their family, especially in the long hot days of summer. Even if we're not consciously teaching our children, they are still watching and learning. Sometimes they're picking up things from us that we'd honestly prefer they didn't!

So, how about a little checkup? What are you passing on to the children in your family? Consciously, or unconsciously? You could even ask them, what they're learning from their experience of family! You might be surprised at the answers.

With best wishes, Ian

Church Services

3rd September 10am at Wakes Colne, led by PCC
24th September 10am at Wakes Colne, led by PCC
1st October 10am Harvest Festival 10am at Chappel
22nd October 10am Benefice Holy communion at Chappel
5th November 10am at Wakes Colne, led by PCC
12th November 10.55am Remembrance at Wakes Colne 10.55pm led by Rev. Mary Cottee
26th November 10am Wakes Colne, led by PCC

The Remembrance Service is on Sunday 12th 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



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Climate Change in Chappel and Wakes Colne

Our Colne Valley Community Energy Project continues to grow, with Pebmarsh residents and Halstead Town Council both expressing interest in joining us. Recruitment in Chappel and Wakes Colne has understandably slowed during the summer while we had more fun stuff to do, but we are back on the case now, and hoping to hear from more residents who are concerned about their energy bills and/or the extreme weather events across Europe and the rest of the world over the summer. Fortunately here in Chappel and Wakes Colne we've enjoyed a warm, wet summer, which I and my garden much prefer to last year's heatwave, drought and wild fires in the fields around us, but I know it has been tricky for our local farmers to get crops in before they were flattened by the rain.

If you've been mulling over solar panels and/or batteries, please get in touch, there's no commitment asked, we are just here to provide information. If you're already on our list of over 100 interested residents, please mention the project to local friends and neighbours, when we have enough people interested it will bring the costs down and make exporting surplus energy to our own community feasible. We are hoping to hold a public meeting in Chappel or Wakes Colne if we can find a venue that has broadband and can seat 50+. If you have, or know of, such a venue, please get in touch, email address below.

On another topic, our MP, Sir Bernard Jenkin, has asked me to organise another free public meeting on climate change with him. It will be held 7pm-9.10pm Thursday 12th October at Colchester Institute. He intends to talk about the proposed pylons, but we also have Tom Day, Head of Energy and Low Carbon Programme, ECC, to talk about what we can do locally to cut our bills, Alison Andreas, Principal and Chief Executive, Colchester Institute, to tell us about their "green skills" training for plumbers/electricians/heating engineers/builders, and building up their capacity to provide courses to upskill the workforce to help households to go green, and Gareth Redmond-King, Head of International Programme, ECIU, to show us the latest information on how we are affected by distant events, eg 25% of our fresh food comes from the Mediterranean region which has been badly affected by droughts and wildfires this year. Gareth has spoken at our meetings before, when he was working for WWF, he is very popular with delegates. To register please go to Eventbrite, "Hot Debate 7: Can we control the climate crisis?" This is a live in person event, sorry, no zoom available this time. I hope to see you there.



Photograph courtesy of Jean Tallis, WI Climate Ambassador, Yorkshire.

Jill Bruce, jillbruce321@gmail.com

Lead Climate Ambassador, Federation of Essex WI



Christine Sylvia Miller (nee Baines)
7th October 1949 to 15th May 2023
Christine lived at Jordans Farm

Abbeygate Concert Band

Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall

Sunday 24th September
2.30-4.30pm

Refreshment available

All proceeds to church funds

Tickets: Norwood Simpson
01787 222628

Nature notes

It's been a funny old summer. Late starting, hot June, wet July, damp August with some monsoon rain. The birds were late arriving, but from the evidence of our House Martins all was OK once they'd get going. We have 7 nests occupied and we're well into the second brood now. Messy birds: I collect the piles of guano on the ground under the nests every couple of days and bury it in the veg patch. The birds are at their most active early morning and early evening, and on some occasions, there have been 20 or more zipping about learning how to fly and feed.

Cuckoo was late. I didn't hear one until 3rd May, but then I heard one or even two until almost the end of June; my last log-book note says 28th June. Raptors seem to have done well too, maybe benefiting from the increase in the rabbit population. There's a couple of Buzzard families around the village area, the young making that plaintive mewing for food as the parent birds gradually desert them.

Once the birds stopped their territorial signing, it got pretty quiet, and so over to the butterflies. The question was after the heat of last summer and food plants drying up, how had they coped? Numbers up, or down? The answer seems to be very mixed.

Spring had the usual numbers of Brimstone (not many) and Orange Tip (loads). Into mid-summer, the newspapers were all about record numbers of Red Admiral, and on the evidence of my garden that was right – Red Admirals have been very plentiful. Over the last couple of years, I've built a what I hope will become a reasonable butterfly patch, an area with several different buddleia shrubs, bounded by blackberries and nettles, and with a group of oaks at the back. It is partly manicured, partly scruffy, and very sheltered from any wind, and on still sunny evenings I sit down there with something cold and alcoholic and watch the display.

Results of this sitting, apart from the many Red Admirals, have been even more Commas and Peacocks. But not one Painted Lady, and not one Small Tortoiseshell either. Lots of Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Large and Small Whites, a couple of Ringlets, several Speckled Wood and a few of both Common and Holly Blue. Only a few Large and Small Skippers though on the blackberries, and no Small Coppers, although I have seen them elsewhere in the village.

While no Painted Ladies or Tortoiseshells was bad, for me though the big question was whether my small colony of Purple Hairstreaks had survived. The answer was yes! Numbers about the same as previous years it seems – that is, not many. But they are there, difficult as ever to see as they flit around the top of the oaks. Behaviour seems to be the same. Mostly sedentary, they come out on sunny evenings at about 6 pm and often are first seen doing a spiralling mock fight with an intruder Hairstreak, and then returning to slowly strut around on an oak leaf. If you can see roughly where they settle back, that's the point when you can watch them for a while. As for which oak tree, they are particular, and do seem to favour the same one each year – the master tree. Other butterflies have a master tree preference too, so how does this pass down the generations? They appeared in late June, and go well into August – I did see 2 on a sunny evening on 17th August.

Dragonflies have been numerous, but as ever frustrating for a learner like me as they just move so fast. The main species early in the summer was Banded Demoiselle, very common on the hedges and potato plants. Now (from mid-August) the big Brown Hawkers are out. And same as last year, the main find in the garden has been Scare Chaser, obligingly still, perching on my runner bean canes.

As for moths, there have been several day-flying Hummingbird Hawk Moths around the patio pots (see photos).

Getting a stiff neck from looking upwards for Hairstreaks in the oaks does occasionally mean a nice bird. One July day a high-flying Hobby went over, and then in the next half hour 3 other raptors appeared - Buzzard, Red Kite and Sparrowhawk. Over at Abberton the Spoonbills have nested again. And then the other evening, coming back into the village at about 8 pm after seeing Oppenheimer over at Braintree, two Barn Owls were hunting along the roadside as the light began to fade.

Tony Witcher



Bee Lines



Let me ask you a question. Do you consider yourself to be a competitive person? An unusual question to be sure, but please allow me to explain myself.

As a child at school, I was taught that competition was a good thing, we should all try hard to be as good as we could possibly be, especially in sports and education. Indeed, the desk you occupied in class reflected your academic position, and we all strived to make the school team, whether it be at football, cricket and rugby, or chess, gymnastics and even spelling, with prizes awarded for the best performances.

Years later, when my daughter attended school, all seemed to have changed. Rewarding the top performers was considered unfair on everyone else; participation, rather than success, was the order of the day.

Things changed again when television producers, in their endless pursuit of higher ratings, realised that competition made for bigger audiences, (and cheaper production costs), although whether the public tuned in to celebrate with the winners or to mock the losers is unclear. So, we now have competitive singing, dancing, cooking, comedy and acting programmes, to name but a few. The list appears to be endless.

So, I hear you say, what on earth has this to do with beekeeping. Has our correspondent (finally) lost his grip on reality. Almost, but not quite is, I hope, the answer.

For beekeeping has, to some, always been a competitive sport, as I recently realised when I was shown a series of medals, awarded to a local man for his participation in honey shows over several decades.



These medals, six in all, were awarded to the same individual and span the years 1931 to 1979, reflecting on nearly half a

century of competitive beekeeping. All of them are cast from heavy bronze and are displayed in their individual boxes. They seem to be of two distinct types, one from the British Beekeeping Society, (presumably for National competitions) and the other from Essex Beekeeping Society, in conjunction with the Essex Agricultural Society.

Our man must have been a top beekeeper, as competition, both locally and nationally would have been fierce. Brother Adam was breeding his bees at Buckfast Abbey at that time, and more locally, Ted Hooper, from Braintree, was cementing his reputation as one of the most knowledgeable beekeepers of the 20th century.

Personally, I have always tried to avoid the competitive aspect of my hobby, although I take great delight in visiting the local honey shows, either at the Tendering Show or the Suffolk Show. The variety of honeys on display never ceases to amaze me and puts my own feeble efforts to shame.

Unfortunately, my lack of attention to detail lets me down. I think I could compete with most producers over the contents of the jar, but I would certainly lose points over the fill level or the alignment of the label, which the judges often regard as equally important as the honey itself. Maybe I lack that competitive edge that would propel me towards glory; or maybe I am just not that sort of person.

I do think though that competitive beekeeping would make a compelling television show. We could call it "bees in their eyes". A celebrity version would attract even more viewers, and franchises to Australia, the U.S. and others would surely follow. This time next year I could be a millionaire, if only I had Simon Cowells' contact details.....Meanwhile, back on planet earth, and returning to more mundane subjects, the final honey extraction of the year will take place next week. Will it be feast or famine for me and my bees? Find out in the next issue.

Your bee correspondent, The Old Drone



Chappel Millennium Green

A brisk early morning walk, a family picnic, a game of rounders, a gentle stroll before supper, are just some of the activities being enjoyed by visitors to The Millenium Green during these summer months. The blossom and scents we enjoyed in the spring and early summer have kept their promise and delivered a harvest of autumnal fruits, seeds and berries for our wildlife to enjoy.

As you enter the Green, you will have noticed the heritage orchard in front of you which was planted a few years ago. Apples, pears and cherries of various varieties have weighed the branches down in recent weeks. We consider this to be our community orchard and therefore the fruits are available for all to enjoy, so please continue to pick when ripe.

A recent survey by committee members has identified a number of mature trees have suffered. At least three 23 year old Silver Birches have died and will require felling. Other mature trees particularly on the walkways need to have their lower canopies lifted to provide safe headroom for walkers to enjoy the perimeter footpaths. Our tree surgeon Tom Leggatt, will be programming this work alongside other routine winter tree maintenance. Safety repairs to the board-walk continue and we are grateful to Wayne Goodchild for assisting us in this work.

It is a pleasure to welcome three new committee members to the Millennium Green team. Vicky Wing who is a bee keeper and lives in Chappel, Helen Wasteney who is the representative from Wakes Colne Parish Council and Susan Chamley representing Chappel Parish Council. We thank them for their interest and support and look forward to working with them.

The 200 Club continues to generate essential funding towards meeting our ongoing costs in maintaining The Green. I am pleased to confirm we now have 82 numbers allocated and as a result, the monthly prize draw has now been increased to £40.00. Congratulations to the recent winners: June – Julia Ellis, July – Jan Neubauer and August – Mandy Sexton, all winning £40.00. Do remember, a donation of £24.00 a year will give you 12 opportunities of now winning £40.00.

As autumn beckons, and evenings draw in, The Green will soon be ablaze with colour and beauty before the trees shed their leaves, save their energy and enter hibernation. 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. Mob: 07714 337137 or
email: neubauer@btinternet.com**



Congratulations to Toby Thompson who was presented with the Les Sayer Award by Val Sayer at the end of term school church service in July.

Ceremonies with you at the heart

Deb Reed – Independent Celebrant

My name is Deb Reed, For the past 22 years, I've been a primary school teacher, but this summer I'm leaving the classroom behind to embark on an exciting new career as an Independent Celebrant. After attending a funeral last year and being captivated by the wonderful celebrant who led it, I just knew that I had found an alternative career which would allow me to use all the skills I had developed over my many years in education and enable me to continue to make a difference to people's lives!

I'm now fully qualified and cannot wait to educate and spread the celebrant love as I help and support families through life's biggest milestones and most challenging times.

What is an independent celebrant and why might you need one?

Celebrant's work with families to facilitate ceremonies which reflect your values, personality, and beliefs. We create inclusive ceremonies that celebrate love, life, and the human experience.

Choosing a celebrant allows you to break free from rigid traditions, paving the way for unique and personalised experiences.

We are skilled at blending rituals, customs, and traditions from different cultures and faiths and putting you and your family at the heart of what we do.

We listen.

We will spend many hours getting to know you and your families to craft a ceremony that respects and honours you or your loved one. We will work with you closely in the lead up to your ceremony and make sure it includes all the elements that are important to you. We can suggest ideas for readings, music and how to incorporate family members and friends.

We are storytellers.

At the heart of every celebration lies a beautiful story waiting to be told. When it comes to leading your ceremony, we possess the art of captivating storytelling and engaging audiences. With a warm presence and genuine enthusiasm, we will create an atmosphere of joy and celebration, ensuring that everyone feels connected and uplifted throughout the ceremony.

Celebrant Weddings

We can guide couples through the journey of planning their special day, infusing the ceremony with love, warmth, and personal touches. Celebrants work closely with couples to design a ceremony that captures their love story and resonates with their guests.

Benefits of choosing a celebrant led wedding include:

Choice of venue – Using a celebrant means you can pick an unlicensed venue or outdoor location, it could be a beach, woodland, or your own home!

You will know and build a relationship with the person marrying you.

You can include your family and loved ones in your ceremony.

We can include meaningful and symbolic rituals.

It can save you money!

Funerals and memorials

Honouring the lives of those who have passed away is an absolute privilege. Celebrants create funerals, memorial services, and celebrations of life to reflect the unique qualities and achievements of your loved ones, while providing reassurance and support to grieving families. Celebrants skilfully guide mourners through the ceremony, offering compassion, understanding, and comfort during challenging times.

Celebrating Milestones

Celebrants embrace the opportunity to mark other significant life events. Whether it's a baby naming ceremony, a milestone anniversary, or a vow renewal. These celebrations often provide an opportunity for families and loved ones to come together and share in the joy and love that these moments bring.

If you are looking to celebrate a life event and would like to work with a warm, passionate, and enthusiastic celebrant then please do visit my website or social media to find out more about me and what I can offer you!

www.deb-reed-celebrant.co.uk



Memories of Living in Wakes Colne and Chappel

The local Memories project held a successful gathering at the village hall on July 20th. Over 20 residents dropped in during the course of the day and enjoyed looking at our exhibition, scrapbooks and talking with old friends and neighbours over refreshments. We were particularly pleased to welcome some new residents in the village and those who came laden with their family albums including village events and those of village organisations.

We have now recorded the memories of over 20 people and households about life here during and since WW2 and are beginning to build up a fascinating and detailed picture of the evolution of our community. We have contacted some people who initially said they would help us, and we know we have at least as many more to record. People have generously shared their recollections and reflections and also their photos and other memorabilia, which they have donated or allowed us to copy. The recordings will be lodged in the Essex Record Office and the materials in the University of Essex. We also hope to produce a publication at the end of the project.

You do not have to have lived here for decades to participate. We should like to hear from anyone with their memories of life here and of events in the village, involvements in clubs or organisations and the work of local businesses. We are currently seeking memories and photos of events, association and club meetings held over the years at the village hall in order that we may mount an exhibition for the celebration of its centenary in November this year.

Please contact 01 787 223425 if you can help us in any way. The Memories Team: Monica Taylor, Kath Beck, Kathy Brown and Val Sayer

Exhibition of Work by Local Artists Organised by Colne Valley Art Group Chappel and Wakes Colne Village Hall

Saturday 16th September 10.30am to 5pm.

Our group holds this event annually to show our work, but also to encourage other local artists, entries from non-members are welcome, including from school children.

**All welcome to view. Free entry
There will be homemade refreshments
& a tombola**

Entries £2 per item, no commission on sales.
Children 12 and under may enter up to 3 items free
Please contact Peter Chillingworth for entry details. 01206 240230 or chillingworthpeter23@gmail.com



Wakes Colne Parish Council

I would like to introduce myself as Wakes Colne Parish Council's new Chairman. I feel privileged to now hold this position and, having lived in the village just shy of 30 years I am, hopefully, equipped to serve Wakes Colne residents in this role. A big thank you for the work of Monica Taylor and to the other Councillors who chose not to stand for re-election in May. We have big boots to fill.

That of course brings me on to our extraordinary Parish Council. We work together as a great team, serving Wakes Colne with the resident's interests at heart. However, there are but four of us.

We have three **Council Vacancies** and would dearly love to have some new Councillors join us. If you are interested, please contact Diane Jacob, our Parish Clerk parishclerk@wakescolne.org for further information or come along to one of our meetings (see dates below) and meet us in person.

Some welcome news on the **VAS system** positioned close to the Village Hall on the A1124. A software update in July has resolved the early teething problems and it now works as intended. In fact, we are now able to provide the Speed Watch Team with various statistics that help clarify traffic trends and will assist in planning Speed Watch sessions. As always, we thank Patrick and the Speed watch team for all they do for us.

Whilst the **VAS system on Station Road** is operating, it is getting rather old now and is not working as it should. This has been reported to Councillor Lewis Barber who is fighting our corner for it to be repaired/replaced.

The booklet '**Walks In and Around Wakes Colne & Chappel**', an initiative started by Monica Taylor and completed by the Wakes Colne walks booklet team is now available, free of charge to residents of Chappel and Wakes Colne. Please see the separate article in this edition of the Village Reporter for further information how to pick one up.

Unfortunately, the **WW1 Commemorative Tree** planted by Wakes Colne Parish Council in 2018 has sadly not survived. The good news is that we have now, with the help of the Millennium Green Trust, replaced it with a new Tulip Tree. This variety of tree is part of the magnolia family, good for insects & bees and is known for its large flowers superficially resembling a tulip. It is positioned on the Millennium Green, opposite the orchard along with the original plaque.



Our **Footpaths Working Group** were hard at work in July, clearing Whistle Walk so that walkers may safely enjoy the path. Further dates for footpath clearance sessions are being planned for September, so watch out on the notice boards and social media for details if you would like to join in and help.

Potholes. Don't forget to report any major road surface, pavement or pothole issues to Essex County Council online www.essexhighways.org/tell-us You will then receive a reference number which you need to e mail to cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk who will monitor progress.
Parish Council Meetings
Our meetings are held in The Village Hall at 7.15pm. The

next dates are:

Wednesday 6th September 2023

Wednesday 4th October 2023

Wednesday 1st November 2023

Wednesday 6th December 2023

If you have any concerns or suggestions that the village and residents might benefit from, please do not hesitate to contact Diane, parishclerk@wakescolne.org in the first instance.

Denise Stocker

Chairman, Wakes Colne Parish Council

Chairman@wakescolne.org

Ambling Arthritics

The AAs, your local walking group, recently enjoyed a walk from the station to Sergeants Orchard, on the boundaries of Wakes Colne, Mt Bures and Fordham. David and Shirley Green who manage the reserve for Essex Wildlife Trust showed us around the old apple and pear trees and we saw the flying flock of sheep who graze the undergrowth.

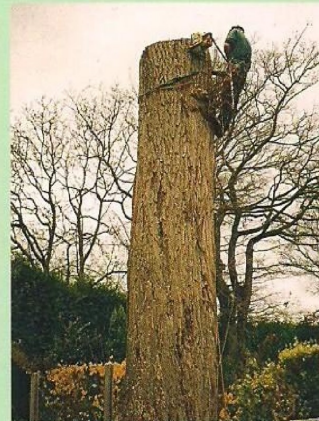


We walk fortnightly, usually for a couple of hours, starting at Station Approach at 10.30 am, exploring local footpaths in the Colne and Stour valleys. The next walk will be on 15th September. Contact 01787 223425 if you are interested to join us.



Richard Fordham

Tree Surgeons



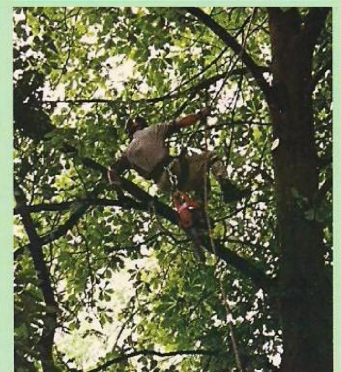
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Keith Underwood

15th August 1947 to 15th May 2023

Keith Underwood sadly died on the 2nd May, 2023 aged 75 at Colchester General Hospital. His burial was on 30th May, at All Saints Church, Wakes Colne.

He was born on the 15th August 1947 in Hackney, East London. At the age of 4 the family moved to Edmonton, North London. He worked as a gardener for Enfield Council doing maintenance work on highways, parks, and tree work.

In the 1960s he was a DJ with his cousin Maureen's husband, David where they attended parties in Chelsea and Claridges Hotel in London.

In 1971 he met Christine on a blind date, marrying on 29th July, 1978. They had their first home in Cheshunt, Herts, where they lived happily until they moved to Chappel on 10th July 1985.

Obtaining a place on Colchester Borough Council, he continued the job he loved in gardening.

He enjoyed nothing better than riding his tractor mower, caring for their large garden, looking after the variety of plants such as Heathers, Buddleias, Cotoneasters.

Keith had been a vital part of the village with his wife, joining as a member of the United Reformed Church, a committee member of the Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall, and a member of the Chappel Speed Watch.

CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE WOMENS INSTITUTE

It does seem a long time ago that we went down to the woods with Liz Huxley at our June meeting. Our presenter is a wild life photographer and enthusiast and with the help of beautiful slides we were taken on a journey through our local woodlands with the plants and creatures that inhabit them through the seasons. Liz was a very informative speaker and I am sure that many of us learnt things we did not know even if you were born and bred in the country. There were lots of questions and a very enjoyable and well attended evening was had by all.

July was also well attended for a talk by our favourite bee man John, known by several of us for his enthusiasm, knowledge and personality. Even if you have listened to John before you will be sure to learn something new. He began by telling us about cleaner bees which is the job that the young bees are given when they hatch – the most menial job of cleaning the honeycombs which get very dirty – if it gets too bad the swarm moves on. We learnt how a new queen is created and how she mates only once in her life to produce all the eggs to perpetuate the swarm – apparently - much to the amusement of the ladies present there are very few males in a hive having only the one use - the rest of the hive is dominated by females. A queen can live for up to six years and worker bees for six weeks which is why we often find them dead – usually from exhaustion. The bee population has increased as many more people have taken up the hobby but the problem at the moment is that the solitary bees and bumble bees are suffering in numbers as they are struggling to find

enough food to survive – leave a wild corner in your garden!

In August we have our outing which this year was what could only be termed “A Grand Day Out”. We began with lunch at the Stables Café just before you get to the village of Waldringfield. After lunch it was down to the village to join the good ship Jehan for a scenic cruise on the River Deben. It was an exceptionally high tide so we were able to go right up to Woodbridge and past the Tide Mill which is the end of the navigable water. The weather was changeable to say the least with thunder, heavy rain and sun which all added to the fun – we were warm and dry inside the boat. After turning round at the mill we cruised back towards the sea as far as Ramsholt. During the trip the crew gave a lovely commentary on the history of the river and its landmarks. Did you know that there was once a large cement works at Waldringfield with a pier and twelve kilns – all demolished now except for some workers cottages. During the war the River Deben was used in Operation Fortitude which was a grand plan to deceive the Germans into thinking that the main invasion of Europe in 1944, would not be at Normandy. Decoy tanks and landing craft were built and moored on the river at Waldringfield. You see you never know what you might find out on a day out with the WI. Coming up – September 20th – Farming in Aldham with Catherine Scott

October 18th – On Being a Magistrate with Carolyn Carter
November 15th - Life in Mongolia with Amabelle

Dorothyb.crees@googlemail.com

CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Put your best foot forward on our newly refurbished Hall floor ...

It looks magnificent, feels wonderful to walk on and our exercise classes find it is a joy to work on!

Our thanks yet again to Wayne Goodchild for arranging this latest great improvement. He is now turning his attention to painting the inside of the Hall which will complete the works financed by Enover for this our 100th year.

The Hellgate Club

Note the change of date! On Saturday evening, 21st October at 7.30p.m. Common Ground Theatre Company are coming to our Village Hall with their latest Autumn production.

Set in Paris, 1905, a series of strange happenings have the authorities baffled. Several men have disappeared under mysterious circumstances, with no connection between them other than that they were last seen in the vicinity of the notorious Pigalle district. With no leads, the police ask retired detective, Jean Tellier to take one last case. Sensing danger around every street corner, in every dimly lit café, in every dark doorway, Tellier begins by interviewing the proprietors and staff of the local bars and nightclubs.

Based on a real life case of the time, Common Ground present a thrilling murder mystery, with live music in the style of the period. Ticket prices will be the same as last year – adults £13, under 21s £10. www.commongroundtc.co.uk or telephone: 07807-341364.

The Village Hall's 100th Birthday Celebrations!

Watch out in the village for more news of this event – details



coming out soon!

This autumn is a good time to try something new!

Want to develop your artistic talents?

Try Peter Chillingworth's art classes on Tuesdays from 1 – 4pm

Tel: 01206 240230.

Thinking of Keeping Fit?

Try Glynis Parker's Tia Chi on Tuesdays at 7pm

Tel: 07754 758961.

Or Rebecca Johnson's Barr Exercises on Thursdays Tel: 07590-527573

What about our thriving Women's Institute?

3rd Wednesday each month at 7.30p.m. See the article in this Village Reporter!

Hire our Village Hall

The Hall is here for everyone to use and enjoy. To hire contact Christine Underwood. Telephone: 01206 40953 Mobile: 07983-242-517 or e-mail Christineunderwood506@gmail.com

Francesca Mead



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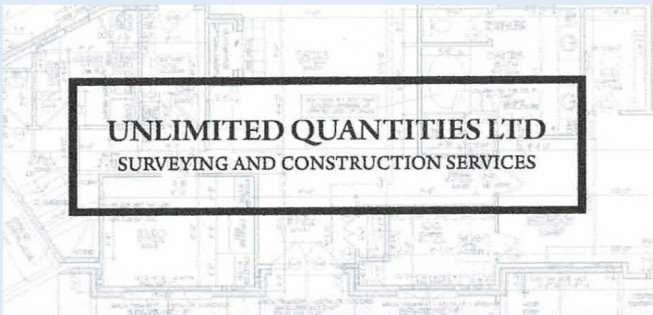



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Wakes Colne Parish Council has worked hard with local contributors to update and reproduce the booklet "Walks In and Around Wakes Colne & Chappel"

In it are four detailed walks around our locality with beautiful illustrations. Thank you to everyone involved.
We received this fantastic testimonial from visitor.

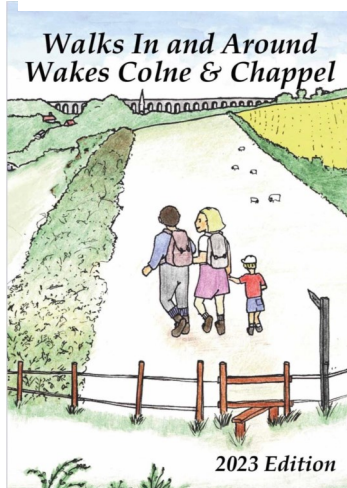
"We visited Greenacres Farm, caravan site in Chappel and just wanted to thank you for producing this walks booklet. We found it very well written & easy to follow and very enjoyable walks."

AndyBoxhall

We certainly hope that you enjoy the walks as much as Andy.

Hard copies are free to residents & visitors and are currently available from the Post Office; the Swan Inn and Platform 2 cafe.

You may also e mail Diane and request a copy parishclerk@wakescolne.org



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 PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Vacancies

We have two 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. Maybe joining the Council is not for you but you have a skill which could assist others in the village or the Parish Council in times of need. At present we do not hold a list of support but we would be interested to hear from you with your thoughts and ideas.

Sunken Drain on the A1124

The Parish Council are pleased that this sunken drain has now been repaired and thank Cllr Barber for assisting the Parish Council in this matter.

Springer – Play Area

The Parish Council have removed the dolphin springer due to wear and tear and will be replacing this with a tractor springer in due course.

Vehicle Activated Sign

The Parish Council has now submitted a license application to Essex County Council in order to gain permission to install a Vehicle Activated Sign on Swan Street opposite Direct Meats. We will keep you updated if this application is successful.

Speed Watch Volunteer

Do you have some time to help the Speed Watch Volunteer, if so please contact the Clerk for further information.

Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings are due to be held on the 11th September & 9th October. 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

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

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 01206589095

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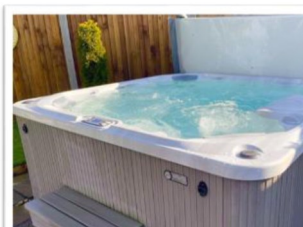
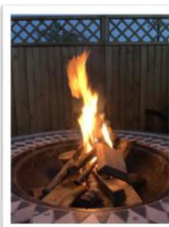
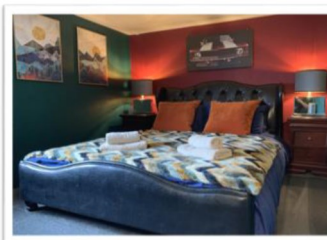
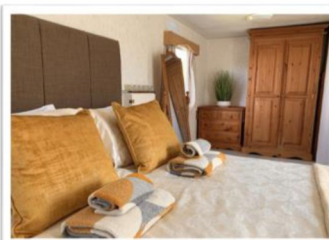
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