

The Chappel & Wakes Colne

Village Reporter



September to November 2026 Issue no. 130

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

Events in the Villages

Art Exhibition
Autumn Craft Fair
The Colne Endeavour Band
Theatre performance
See page 2 for details

Join the Villages
Church Lottery and
The Millennium Green
200 Club

Pages 3 and 6

Harvest Festival Church Services

See pages 3 and 4

'Villages in Bloom'. Display on the Green, The Street. See page 7 for more photographs and an update

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 2026 to February 2027 issue- Friday 20th November 2026

LOCAL INFORMATION

Earls Colne Surgery: appointments 01787 222022
Bures Surgery: appointments 01787 227529
County Councillor: Sara Naylor: sara.naylor@colchester.gov.uk
Police Colchester: 01245 491491 non emerg.101 emerg.999
Chappel C of E School: Head: Lee Caffull 01787 222296
Churches: COE: Christine Maskell 01206 241261
Chappel URC: Anthony Percival 01206 240442
Wakes Colne Post Office: 01787 222449
National Rail Enquiries: 03457 4849 50
Citizens Advice Bureau: 0800 144 8848
Childline: 0800 1111
Samaritans: 116 123
Chappel Parish Council Clerk: Ms. Helen Cook 01206 589095
Chappel Website: www.chappel.org
Chappel Chair: Cllr. Sue Chamley sue.chamley@chappel.org
Wakes Colne PC Clerk: clerk@wakescolne-pc.gov.uk
Wakes Colne PC Website: www.wakescolne-pc.gov.uk
Wakes Colne PC Chairman: Cllr. Peter Chillingworth
East Anglian Railway Museum: Peter Martin 01206 242524
Royal British Legion (Ladies): Val Sayer 01206 240328
Women's Institute: Neris Roberts 01787 223855
Village Hall: Chairperson Denise Stocker
denise.stocker@woodbre.co.uk
Village Hall Bookings: Glynis Parker 07761 120948
Earls Colne & District Dog Training Club (Mon 7pm)
Val Sayer 07972 252987

Exhibition of Work by Local Artists Chappel and Wakes Colne Village Hall Saturday, 19th September

Organised by Colne Valley Art Group

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

The exhibition will take place at the Village Hall from 10.00 am till 3.00 pm. Viewing free, everyone is welcome, there will be refreshments and tombola. Entries £2 per framed item with no commission on sales. Folios/browsers of unframed work, £5. Children under 12 enter free.

Please note, work should be handed-in on Friday 18th September, 6.00 till 8.00 pm.

Please contact Peter Chillingworth for entries and further details. chillingworthpeter23@gmail.com, or telephone 01206 240230

Autumn Craft Fair

- Handmade Crafts
- Refreshments
- Local Gifts

SATURDAY
17th October
10am - 2pm

Tables available @ £10
call Glynis on
07754 758961

Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall
CO6 2BX

THE COLNE ENDEAVOUR BAND

PRESENT AN AFTERNOON
OF FAMILY MUSICAL
ENTERTAINMENT

Listen to tunes from
musical theatre, jazz,
classics & anything else
that takes their fancy.

Conductor: ROBERT JOHNSTONE

CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL CO6 2BX

Sunday
11th OCTOBER 2026
2.30 pm - TICKETS £8.00
Includes tea & cake

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
VAL 07972 252987 and
WAKES COLNE POST OFFICE

proceeds to Wakes Colne Church

The Remembrance Service

Sunday 8th 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.

Valerie Sayer who has organised the sale of the Poppies in the villages for many years, is retiring. Donations to the Poppy Appeal can be made on the Royal British Legion website <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

Please contact Val Sayer with any queries tel: 01206 240328



COMMON GROUND THEATRE COMPANY

THE PHANTOM OF FRIAR STREET

"Don't even think of staying here. This house... has a history!"

by Pat Whymark

TOURS ACROSS EAST ANGLIA
OCT 1 - NOV 1

Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall
CO6 2BX

Sunday 4th October, 5pm

Tickets £14 (≤21yrs: £10) 07807 341364 or online at...
www.commongroundtc.co.uk



St. Barnabas Church, Chappel



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



All Saints Church, Wakes Colne

Churchwarden - Chappel: Mrs Christine Maskell, tel 01206 241261, email: lbriar@aol.com
Treasurer: Richard Bareham, tel 07977 111817, email: wccpcctreasurer@gmail.com

Dear Readers,

I hope you are all enjoying our long sunny days although I expect many of you are wishing for some rain for our parched lawns and gardens. An upside is that it is wonderful for all the children to be able to enjoy their summer holidays outdoors in the fresh air. We held a wonderful end of year service at Chappel Church in July, the church was packed with staff, pupils, parents and grandparents. All the year 6 leavers received a bible from the church and we wish them all well in their new secondary schools which I know they are very excited about, good luck year 6s.

Our Church has been a little quieter since our last magazine due to the church being in 'Ordinary Time' but we have an exciting baptism at Wakes Colne church in September. Reverend Emma Barr is taking the service, and we very much look forward to welcoming baby Noah, his parents and family to our church. Many of you may know of her as she is our church school governor, a great many parents of the school have already got to know Emma well.

We are very excited to announce that Emma has been granted permission to help us with our church services starting on September 1st within our benefice. We are still advertising for a priest in charge as Emma is a part time minister and also runs a farm, but we are thrilled she wants to offer her time to help us, she will be a fantastic support and we welcome her with open arms.

In November we will be holding an extra service at Wakes Colne Church on Remembrance Day, November 8th at 10.55am, we do hope that many of you can come to this special service. The other special service we are holding is at Chappel Church on Christmas Eve. It is going to be a crib service with all your doggy family invited and encouraged to come too! It will be held on December 24th at 2.30pm, we hope to get as many dogs as people!! Do come along, I think we shall all have a great deal of fun.

I have included all our service dates for the next three months so that you know where we will be every week, everyone is welcome to all services. If anyone in our two villages need help in anyway at all, please contact me on 07748968083, whether they need provisions, home communion, help getting to medical appointments or any other problem, we are here to help our community. Hope you all enjoy the rest of your Summer.

Blessings to you all

Christine Maskell, churchwarden of Chappel and Wakes Colne churches

Please visit our wonderful new church website created by Richard Harris, our grateful thanks to him, please take a look, there is so much information about our two historic churches.

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

CHURCH SERVICES

September 6th Wakes Colne Church, Morning Worship 10am
September 27th Wakes Colne Church, Benefice Communion 10 am

October 4th Chappel Church, Harvest Thanksgiving 10 am
(any provisions for our charity Beacon House would be appreciated)

October 25th Chappel Church, Benefice Communion 10 am
November 1st Wakes Colne Church, Morning Service
All Saints Day 10 am

November 8th Wakes Colne Church, REMEMBRANCE DAY
10.55 am

November 22nd Wakes Colne Church, Christ the King
Benefice Communion 10 am
Everyone is Welcome



Church Lottery

Yes it is still going!

Subscriptions of £15 will be due for the new Lottery year commencing on 1st October, so please watch your Inbox for the usual reminder.

If you wish to join and be in the draw for the monthly prizes each month, please email

treasurerwccpcc@gmail.com

Thank you, Richard, Treasurer & Lottery Promoter

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



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

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

MINISTER: Vacant

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

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

Preachers in September, October and November

On Sundays at 6.30pm
URC unless stated otherwise

SEPTEMBER

6 Canon Roy Tricker *Anglican*
13 Ian Hardie
20 **HARVEST** William Glasse
27 Alan Macnaught

OCTOBER

4 Rev'd Dr Robert Pope
11 Rev'd Andrew Royal
18 Rev'd Dr Martin Camroux
25 Rev'd Charles Martin

NOVEMBER

1 TBA
8 William Glasse
15 Alan Macnaught
22 Rev'd Ruth Ridge *Methodist*
29 Carol Nicholson

Autumn in God's Creation

Welcome to September, and to the onset of beautiful and picturesque Autumn, when your lush North Essex countryside will be bathed in the colour and beauty of what I insist upon calling 'Creation'.

My Faith reminds me that 'God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good'. And it still is – and it still works, despite what we human beings (who are supposed to care for it) have done and are doing to spoil it, hurt it and mess it up.

I don't pretend to understand it all, but the world of Nature, of which we are all part, amazes me – it's just wonderful. And I just cannot believe that what I call Creation is the result of some sort of accident.

Jesus clearly loved Nature, rejoiced in it and told the people of his day (and the likes of me) to look at it and to learn from it. He used it to teach in so many of his parables.

Canon Roy Tricker – A lay Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral

I marvel at Creation, but cannot always get my head around the infinite breadth and depth of it all – from the tiny creatures visible only through a powerful microscope (not forgetting the millions of wonders yet to be discovered), to things in the night sky which are light years away and the infinite universe beyond.

I can however get my head around and delight in the new life that I see around me, the beauty of the land in which I live, and the undeserved love and kindness that I receive from my friends.

So I say to you (and to myself) – enjoy Autumn, enjoy Creation – bask in it, be amazed by it, and give thanks for it.

These are Greetings from an Anglican Lay Minister in Suffolk, but who was born an 'Essex Boy'!

To ponder and pray . . .

Five marks of Faith in Action . . . The URC General Assembly this year commended the Five Marks for the URC's Faith in Action team: TELL the good news; TREASURE creation; TRANSFORM unjust structures; TEND – to others' needs; TEACH faith, hope and love.

News in brief . . .

Mission Partnership – Chappel URC is now part of a Mission Partnership of three churches – Lion Walk U R Church Colchester, Walton-on-Naze URC/Methodist United Church and Chappel U R Church. We are still in ministerial vacancy and seeking a minister.

125th Anniversary Chappel URC – At the time of writing material for this magazine, the Anniversary Celebrations are yet to take place on 22nd August. Over fifty people expected.

Harvest Festival

on Sunday 20 September at 6.30pm
led by William Glasse



We are requesting suitable foodstuffs for display and afterwards send on to Colchester Food Bank.

Flowers, fruit and vegetables also required for decorative display.

The Offertory and donations are for Christian Aid

Monthly

We drink coffee or tea. We eat various cakes provided and we chat about anything and everything for an hour

Coffee and Chat
AT THE CHAPEL

We would love to welcome you

10.30 to 11.30am on FIRST Saturday each month

This is not a 'religious' affair!

Nature Notes August 2026

Summer sizzler shocker as a tabloid big font headline might shout. Hot and hotter, too hot to do much apart from sit quietly under a tree and watch the butterflies. On the evidence of the garden, they've done ok, but no better than that.

Pluses. Lots of Whites, both Small and Large. Plentiful Red Admirals and Peacocks, a few Painted Ladies. After last year when my garden count for them was zero, these few were welcome, but I didn't see the numbers I thought I might, especially as it's been an invasion year of this migrant from the Mediterranean and North Africa. Quite a lot of Blues too, both Common and Holly, and a few Large Skippers were on the blackberry flowers earlier on.

I got worried about our small colony of Purple Hairstreaks. I thought they might be out early given the heat. Normally they appear in late July. I checked mid-month this time, but well into August I hadn't seen any despite several evenings gazing at the top of the clump of oaks that they like. Then one mid-August evening there were three lazing around high in an oak around as they do. A Brimstone on the buddleia was very nice, although I wasn't sure about combination of the yellow of the butterfly and the purple flower - bit of a colour clash there.



Hawk Moths typically are big moths, but there a few small ones in the family. Hummingbird Hawk Moth is one of these, not much bigger than a big bee, and several were around judging from friends' reports of sightings. We had one with a regular evening habit (I assume it was the same individual). It

suddenly appeared just after 6, did a tour of the flowers in the pots, hovered and sampled one or two, and then disappeared over the hedge. Exactly the same behaviour three evenings running. One surprise was a Small Elephant Hawkmoth caterpillar on the patio. I have seen Elephant Hawkmoth caterpillars before, and they are large things, but never a Small, which is perhaps half the size. It was united with leaves under the hedge.

Minuses Most summers that I can remember we've had lots of

Commas in the garden. This one there were very few. And again no small Tortoiseshells, so I think we must now accept they are gone.

Birds have been few but interesting. A pair of Partridges took up residence in the garden, comical in their clockwork running around. I am not sure if they bred: there are lots of cats around, so I have my doubts. There have been plentiful newly fledged Blue Tits. Our House Martin colony has done well, with 8 nests occupied and we're well into the second brood now. Hardly any Swifts over the garden though.

Tree Creeper is not a rare bird, but it is very hard to see as it is well camouflaged against tree trunks and branches. Very occasionally it comes into the garden, where we have a couple of aging and now very gnarled cherries. The other day there was one deep into the crevasses of the peeling bark, the first time I've seen one near the house for perhaps five years.



Lots of birds of prey have bene around. Buzzards circling in the thermals like vultures do, and a regular Red Kite over the house. One evening there was a long aerial dogfight between a Buzzard and Sparrowhawk, soaring together higher and higher as they annoyed each other. Kestrels too have been numerous, hovering over a field here, on a roadside wire there. One evening a Hobby dashed through the garden, the House Martins went aaargh and scattered. But this one was not hunting, clearly on a mission to get somewhere else quickly.

The annual Bird Fair is now a major international event, held over three days up at Rutland Water. In the many marquees there are morning to evening birdy talks, equipment stands when you can try the latest binoculars and cameras, and rows upon rows of stalls promoting holiday destinations and tour opportunities. Any country you can think of, and there was a stand there doing the sales pitch for it. I got the binoculars cleaned and checked over (a free service most of the manufacturers offer), heard a talk on bustards in central Spain, and picked up brochures on Estonia where it looks like I can see all the European woodpeckers in a couple of days. Well worth a visit if you're looking for holiday ideas.

Tony Witcher

(Photographs by Peter Batt)

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Chappel Millennium Green

Whilst writing this latest article for the Village Reporter, I looked back through my photographs of the community orchard taken last year. The middle of August seemed to be a good time to inspect this year's harvest of fruit in the orchard. I have to confess, what confronted me was both a shock and a worry. It was sad to see the fruit trees in the orchard under so much stress with virtually no visible fruit on the branches of most trees. Nature has a remarkable way of addressing extreme conditions and I hope the fruit trees in our community orchard can respond in recovery during Autumn once we see rainfall again.



The aerial photograph of the Millennium Green that routinely heads this article, reminds me of those wonderful words by William Blake..... 'England's Green and Pleasant Land.' For all of us, that palette has dramatically changed this summer, the weekly sound of busy lawnmowers is almost a distant memory at the moment. I am reliably informed, in such scorching weather conditions, grass enters a natural survival state called 'dormancy' rather than actually dying. Although the grass blades turn brown and straw-like, the crown and root system remain alive, ready to respond when the rain and lower temperatures return.



Thank you to all those members of our community who have alerted us to 'fish poaching' activity being seen on the section of the River Colne that abuts the Millennium Green. This is clearly not in keeping with the stewardship and ethos of all that the Green stands for in nature and conservation. We will do what we can to prohibit this activity in liaison with other agencies including the placing of signage on and around the river bank. Please remain vigilant and do keep our committee members updated if you see any such activity. Wheelchair and mobility scooter users are most welcome to visit and enjoy all the Green has to offer. The boardwalk that surrounds the lower water meadow has been designed to be wheelchair and mobility scooter friendly. There are 'passing bays' on the boardwalk where you can safely stop and enjoy the moment. If you are

planning a visit and need assistance with access at the main entrance gate to the Millennium Green, please contact us by emailing: chappellmillenniumgreen@gmail.com

The 200 Club continues to generate essential funding towards the upkeep of The Green and I am pleased to announce we now draw two winners every month. A first prize of £50.00 and a second prize of £25.00. Recent prize winners are as follows:

June 2026 Draw – Ticket Number 3 – Kathy Tremayne £50.00
 June 2026 Draw – Ticket Number 25 – Jamini Kandeepan £25.00
 July 2026 Draw – Ticket Number 106 – Jan Clark £50.00
 July 2026 Draw – Ticket Number 137 – Dave Murton £25.00
 August 2026 Draw – Ticket Number 98 – Nancy Noble £50.00
 August 2026 Draw – Ticket Number 36 – Sue Chamley £25.00
 The Draw takes place every month, usually at the Chappel Parish Council Meeting. Do remember, a donation of £24.00 a year will now give you 24 opportunities of winning. This prize money is likely to increase again as more members join the 200 Club. Our Treasurer, Nick Ingram, has contacted the lucky winners and delivered their prizes.

Please note: It is now '**renewal time**' for membership of the 200 Club. Please continue to support us as the ongoing maintenance of The Green is funded by your generous commitment to the 200 Club.

Do continue to visit and enjoy The Green and all it has to offer our community.

With Every Good Wish, Peter Neubauer, Chairman.

Chappel Millennium Green Trust.

Email: chappellmillenniumgreen@gmail.com

CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Safer Roads • Local Action • Community Update

SUMMER SPEED WATCH SESSIONS

Despite challenging weather, our volunteers continue to help keep local roads safer. The recent extraordinary high temperatures have restricted our weekly Speed Watch sessions, but whenever conditions have allowed, our resilient volunteers have been out reminding drivers:

"We don't like speeding vehicles in our villages – so slow down!"

SID AT ROSE GREEN

There is encouraging news regarding the long-running saga of the Speed Indicator Advice (SID) on Rose Green. We are hopeful that a new set of ears within Highways is sympathetic to our concerns, and that sensible discussions may finally be on the horizon.

Watch this space!

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

A reminder to everyone using our roads: pedestrians can take important steps to help protect themselves and their families. The Highway Code isn't just for drivers. It contains plenty of guidance that can help pedestrians stay safer on our roads. Please take a moment to read the latest guidance on the Highway Code.

20's PLENTY

The **20's Plenty Campaign** promotes sensible, safer speed limits where they can make the greatest difference.

It does not call for blanket 20mph restrictions.

Both Chappel and Wakes Colne Parish Councils have signed up to the campaign. However, following recent changes to the administration of Essex County Council, ECC will no longer support 20's Plenty, stating that

"Essex roads are too diverse". This does not prevent residents, parents and road users from supporting the campaign. **Add your voice:** Register by email with email Adrian.b.@20splenty.org.

GET INVOLVED : For more information about 20's Plenty or becoming a Community Speed Watch volunteer, contact **Patrick Dent** on 01787 220147.

SAFER ROADS FOR CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE



Chappel and Wakes Colne Station Adopters

Wow what a sizzler this summer has been. At the time of writing there is no end in sight to the drought. Earlier in the year we thought we had the watering down to a fine art without having to carry heavy cans! Once the hosepipe ban was announced we were back to square one, filling watering cans and five litre containers! The containers, once full, are placed in the boot of a car and taken to the end of the platform or to the garden. Passengers, those waiting for friends and family at the station, and staff at the East Anglian Railway Museum seeing this system in operation have very kindly, and spontaneously, offered their 'spare' time to help by transporting the water to the relevant spots. A big thank you goes to all. You know who you are!

Station Adoption brings new friends. With all the watering, more time has been spent at the station meeting passengers and helping them by answering questions, advising them about the best place for them to get on the train if they are disabled, and have suitcases or prams, and talking about the work of Station Adopters. Visitors often ask about the history of the station, walks in the local area, and how they can get to the bus stop! Many travellers and commuters have commented on how much they like coming to the station because of the plants. One said it made the best start to their daily commute. Thank you.

Over the past few years, we have taken the dry, windy conditions at the station into account when choosing the plants we grow. This means we have been truly fortunate in maintaining our attractive environment this summer with less water than may have been needed with more demanding plants. With the possibility of even hotter conditions in future, we have been monitoring the impact of the weather on our current plants, and thinking about what might be needed next year. Plants we thought would be successful, Mexican sunflowers (*tithonia*) and cosmos have not shown their true colours, needed far more water than anticipated. Curry plants, cineraria, allium, scabious, hebe, sedum, herbs, rock roses, marigolds, million bells, lampranthus, mesembryanthemums, salvias, creeping jenny and some fleshy plants, (names not known) have all done well. We will continue our research into growing more 'dry garden' plants in the future. They may not have the most flamboyant flowers but those we have already been caring for have attracted many bees and butterflies.

The water feature attached to the living roof is becoming established. We thought you might like to know the fun names of the plants it contains: *Nymphaea Xiae* (miniature water lily), *Ceratophyllum Demersum* (hornwort), *Tylpha Minimo* (miniature bullrush), *Oenanthe Javanica* Flamingo (water dropwort), *Iris Versicolour* Mysterious Monique (iris), *Menthe Cervina* (water spearmint), *Aponogeton Distachyos* (water hornwort: flowers in late winter and early spring).



If you look carefully on your next visit, you may see some little snails. We introduced them into the tank recently to help keep it clean.

We have been lucky that another of our applications for a grant to improve the station has been successful. We were awarded £500 by the Greater Anglia Community Fund. This money will be spent in purchasing an additional planter for the platform which will contain winter flowering honeysuckle. The aim is to provide food for early emerging bees. The remainder of the money has been allocated to a large number of spring flower bulbs to provide a colourful display early in the year. Hopefully the ground won't be like concrete when we try to plant them!

Other news: Some water retaining containers have been donated. We plan to transfer some of the plants in the train planter into these containers. It has been too hot to transfer them so far.

We are compiling a photographic record of the plants, wildflowers and trees as they have flowered over the year at the station. This is so that we can see how well we are supporting nature.

The wildflowers, including those newly sown, seem to have flourished without much water. They flowered, if only for a short time, and the sound of the bees on them was great to hear. The poppies were very beautiful.

The East Anglian Railway Museum is extending the mini rail line. They are incorporating a nature and picnic area into the new route. Nick who is leading this project has asked if anyone has garden gnomes, or small garden items that can be placed en-route to make the trip interesting to all. If you have any items, you would be prepared to donate, please let Kath Beck know at teyfields@gmail.com. Our thanks go to all who have helped and supported the drive to improve the station and make it a truly welcoming area for the community and passengers.

Kath Beck and Al Cochram, Station Adopters

Villages in Bloom

Hello everyone,

Since our last article a lot has happened to Villages in Bloom



Our plants have successfully grown thanks to the constant care of our volunteers and they look magnificent bringing colour and vibrance to the community. Many people both local and outside of our villages have commented on how spectacular the planters look and the credit they bring to the area.

When we first set up we enrolled Villages in Bloom into the RHS/Britain in Bloom 'It's your Neighbourhood'. This is a free community scheme which is run in partnership with Anglia in Bloom to encourage local groups to care for and enhance shared open spaces by introducing planting and flowers as displays.

Each group is assessed by judges from their local In Bloom organisation and given guidance to improve year on year. We had hoped that by year three we could be in the position to become a full member, the judges were so impressed that they invited us to become a full member of Anglia in Bloom at the assessment.

This is amazing that our small villages have been invited to join AiB in less than a year from starting and is a great credit to the work of our volunteers. By being a full member of Anglia in Bloom both Chappel and Wakes Colne are also part of the Britain in Bloom campaign. This is an exciting opportunity to demonstrate what we can do and involve all aspects and groups within our community.

One of ViB's aims is to widen the involvement of all the community including our local businesses in this project, to this end we are setting up a team to raise awareness by getting involved in local activities and organising social events to raise funds.

The summer season is coming to a close but we have already started to plan Autumn displays which will be featuring varieties of pansies, violas, ivy and wall flowers which we hope will be planted out by mid October. We will be introducing five new self watering planters from the Orbea range which over time will develop into tower displays.

As always this is a community project and we welcome anyone who would like to get involved by volunteering or by sponsoring a display.

Thank you for reading this
For more details please contact Nigel at nigel.lippiatt@yahoo.com or call 07400 378512



Bee Lines



Let's start with the good news. The longest drought in living memory, covering almost three months and several official heatwaves, has, as I write, just broken. Weeks of parched fields and gardens, hosepipe bans and desperate attempts to keep the gardens alive in 35-degree heat armed just with a watering can, have finally come to an end. (although I suspect the hosepipe ban may continue for a few months yet).

So, I hear you ask, what effect has this had on the bees? Good question, and one I will attempt to answer, to the best of my knowledge.

My five hives have now become seven. One hive was preparing to swarm in June. The only preventative solution was to split the hive into two, or risk losing some bees in the swarm, so then there were six. The arrival of another swarm, taking up residence in a bait box, an empty hive strategically positioned to attract swarms, pushed the colony count up to seven. I now have more occupied hives than ever before, my previous best being five. Surely this means a record honey harvest, or does it?

In beekeeping, the priority must be the survival of healthy colonies from year to year. Honey for the beekeeper is the amount left over in excess when the bees have enough to see themselves through the next winter. Over the centuries, we have selected strains of bees specifically for their ability to produce large excesses of honey, but other factors are also in play.

In order to produce a good honey crop, the colonies must be strong enough, in numbers of worker bees, to exploit the main nectar flows when they come. Locally, there is enough nectar flowing from April to August to keep the hives "ticking over" and allowing them to exploit the two main nectar flows based on oilseed rape in spring and borage in summer. I am not a great fan of rapeseed honey, preferring to leave it to enable the bees to build up strength to exploit the much more lucrative borage crop.

So much for theory. Now consider the facts of this year. Firstly, my hives were weak going into spring. New strains of rapeseed seem to flower earlier each year, and this year my hives were not strong enough to exploit the early flowering rapeseed. Never mind, there is always borage.

Unfortunately, due to drought and heatwave, germination of borage was erratic to say the least. A farmer friend described it as "unusual" with an initial flowering quite early, a brief flowering around the time one would usually expect the main flowering, in early to mid-June, and then a much-delayed main flowering several weeks later in early August.

In the absence of a reliable borage crop, the bees would usually fall back on crops such as bramble, always a good source of nectar. Indeed, the blackberries have been excellent this year, but climatic conditions meant that the flowering period only lasted for a couple of weeks, instead of the usual couple of months.

So the result has been that the honey crop has been the worst one for many years for me, even though the number of hives is the highest ever. So, pity the poor beekeeper and his bees:- not a bit of it! The bees will have produced enough honey to see themselves through the winter, which is their and my main priority. We now enter the time of year when they will be treated and made ready for the long winter months. I will also take precautions to protect them from wasp attacks in autumn; always a danger but hopefully less so this year, as this year has been a hard year for wasps as well. We must remember that honeybees have existed, largely unchanged, since the emergence of flowering plants many millions of years ago. They have seen off the dinosaurs, retreated before the glaciers over several ice ages, moving back northwards in the wake of the retreating ice. They have survived far worse episodes of climate change than we can ever imagine.

It is my honest opinion that honeybees will continue to thrive and will be here long after *Homo Sapiens*, ie. us, have managed to make ourselves extinct. Now there's a happy thought to finish on!

Your bee correspondent, The Old Drone

Climate Change in Chappel and Wakes Colne

Twice this month, first on holiday in the Lake District, then here in Wakes Colne, someone has said to me "ooo, look, it's raining!", and I've turned to see with the same excitement I used to feel as a child when the first flakes of snow fell in winter! How times have changed when we celebrate rain in an English summer! All our water saving butts ran out during the drought, so I'm planning a garden makeover, taking out the sad, wilted plants and adding those the RHS say are drought resilient, and have coped well with the heat this year, like perennial geraniums, sea holly, agapanthus, lavender and rosemary.

We're promised one more heatwave this summer, in September, then it will be time to batten down the hatches for autumn storms. The Met office are saying that this El Niño will be the strongest on record, so we can expect a wet and stormy November and December. Unlike the human induced climate change we're experiencing, caused mostly by burning fossil fuels creating too much carbon dioxide, (apologies to all those holding shares in oil and gas companies who'd prefer this wasn't true) plus methane burped by cows and sheep, El Niño, the Met Office tell me, is a natural event occurring every 2-7 years, when the Pacific heats up, changing global wind direction and bringing different weather extremes across the world. Fascinating, if scary, stuff, but I'm focusing on Chappel and Wakes Colne, where we should prepare for deluge and floods. September/October would be a good time to check drains are clear and trees needing pruning are prepared for what's coming. If your home is in a flood area please check your flood defenses early.

That same El Niño is expected to last into next summer when it will add to the heat and drought we are already experiencing through climate change. We, our farmers and gardens certainly need resilience to cope with the new and ever changing "normal".

On a more positive note, I've been in touch with Colchester City Council (CCC) regarding our new recycling calendar. It's mostly positive, we no longer need to take windows out of envelopes or paper wrappers off tins as everything is bundled in together now, and Bella Hines at CCC tells me "Paper, card, plastics, tins and cans are collected together as "dry mixed recycling". These materials are sent for sorting at a specialist materials recovery facility, where they are separated into individual material streams for recycling. Metals are separated using magnets and other sorting technologies as part of this process.

The introduction of mixed recycling collections does not mean these recyclable materials are being sent for incineration. The aim of the change is to make recycling easier for residents while maintaining the recycling of collected materials. Colchester's new service is also being introduced in line with national Simpler Recycling requirements. We do, however, encourage residents to ensure containers are empty and reasonably clean before recycling."

The long-awaited wheelie bins should be with us by March, if not before. Meanwhile we need to put all the dry mixed recycling, including cans, into their plastic bags, as the operatives don't have time to run back and forth with the boxes we used to use for cans. I was hoping all plastic could now go in the bags, but some still can't. That includes plastic wrapping paper, the sort that looks like paper but doesn't stay crumpled up, that still goes in the black bags. The list of what can and can't go in is very comprehensive and far too long to add here, but is easily found at <https://www.new.colchester.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/what-goes-your-bins-kerbside/dry-mixed-recycling-including-tins-cans>

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Next dates: Tuesday 2nd and 23rd September, 14th October, 4th and 25th November

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CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE WOMENS INSTITUTE

After the formality of our Annual General Meeting way back in May we had a complete contrast at our June gathering with another visit by Lucy Allen – stunt woman extraordinaire. Lucy told us how she went into the profession through gymnastics and the circus initially, then eventually getting her name into official Stunt Register in 1990 which opened many doors of opportunity for work. We had a short film showing some of her escapades in many films like James Bond and Harry Potter – very interesting, hair raising and dangerous at times but by all accounts, she has loved her unusual career. It was great to get the chance to hear how some of the stunts are performed.

In mid-June twelve members attended a picnic garden party at Oak Farm, Wakes Colne. Unfortunately, it was the hottest day so far but precautions were taken and a good time had by all. Many thanks to our hosts for having us.

It was the very serious subject of scams at our July meeting. The speaker for the evening was Tammy Blest, the North Essex Fraud Prevention Officer for Chelmsford, Braintree, Tendring and Colchester – you could have heard a pin drop as we were told of typical scams prevalent today. These included Social Engineering – the manipulation of humans to trust. Online crime which is very common, advance fee fraud where you pay money upfront for goods that don't exist. Card fraud, banking fraud – the list is endless and very frightening. Another very widespread scam is distraction fraud where teams work together causing a distraction whilst robbing you. The other one worth mentioning is romance and dating online. Tammy also pointed out that any monies sent abroad by a scam is irrecoverable – many people have lost thousands, even property. We in Essex have around one hundred victims per week as this is considered to be an affluent area. Tammy went on to advise on precautions we can take to protect ourselves which is not always easy when you are doing everyday things. If you are unlucky enough to have been a victim the number to call is 159 which is a dedicated line. We were all somewhat shocked to hear the variation of fraud going on and although we hear about it on the media some, we were not aware of. The moral of the story is "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

On a lighter note, two of our members have reached their 90th birthdays, one of which has been a member for 41 years and we celebrated with bubbles and cake which made a happy ending to a somewhat food for thought meeting.

Diary Dates:

September 16th – Trends of a Decade with Amanda Sutherland

October 21st - Local Author Ruth Badley on Writing and Family

November 18th – Seated Yoga with Sue Godwin

Venue Village Hall - £5 for visitors includes refreshments tea and cakes etc. All welcome.

Dorothyb.crees@googlemail.com

CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE
PROPERTY
Matters
BY MARK QUINN – PERSONAL ESTATE AGENT

“
Good estate agency is still about honest advice, communication, local knowledge and, above all, people.
”

The property market is rarely out of the news, and 2026 has certainly given buyers and sellers plenty to think about. But while national headlines are interesting, property markets are ultimately local – and what is happening across the country doesn't always tell us what is happening here in Chappel, Wakes Colne and the surrounding villages.

THE MARKET TODAY

The current market is best described as price-sensitive but active. Buyers have more choice than they have had for some time, which means they can afford to be selective. For sellers, presentation, marketing and, most importantly, getting the asking price right from the outset have become increasingly important.

Across Essex, the average asking price currently stands at around £447,000, although this covers an enormous variety of locations and property types. Here in Chappel, recent sold-price data puts the average over the past year at approximately £597,000, with detached homes accounting for many of the sales.

Of course, averages only tell part of the story. One of the joys – and challenges – of valuing property locally is the sheer variety of homes we have. Period cottages, individual detached houses, converted buildings and more modern family homes can sit within a relatively small area, meaning two apparently similar properties can have very different values.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

For those I haven't met, I'm Mark Quinn, a Personal Estate Agent working across this part of Essex.

I started my estate agency career as an office junior – putting up boards, preparing property details and learning the profession from the ground up – before progressing through the industry and eventually owning an agency. After a period working as a Lloyd's of London insurance broker, I returned to property and now run my own business in partnership with The Agency UK.

OUR AREA – FULL OF CHARACTER



Chappel's famous railway viaduct was completed in 1849, contains 32 arches, stretches approximately 1,060 feet across the Colne Valley and was constructed using more than seven million locally made bricks. Remarkably, although it was designed to accommodate two railway tracks, it has only ever carried one.



Chappel & Wakes Colne railway station is situated close to the border between the two villages, serving both Chappel and Wakes Colne. The station opened in 1849 and, alongside it, you'll also find the East Anglian Railway Museum – a wonderful reminder of the area's rich railway heritage.

That combination of countryside, history, character and connectivity is one reason property in our villages continues to attract interest.

The biggest difference with the personal-agent approach is simple: you deal with me. From discussing the value of your home and preparing the marketing, through viewings, negotiations and keeping the sale moving towards completion, I remain personally involved.

Property technology may have changed enormously over the years, but I don't think the fundamentals have.

Do it right. Do it together. Get results.

Mark Quinn
PERSONAL ESTATE AGENT

📞 01206 584 145

📠 07961 746378

✉️ mark.quinn@theagencyuk.com

A THE AGENCY UK

www.echm.org.uk

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



Museum Renovations and Closure

The external repairs and decoration to the water tower, home of Earls Colne Heritage Museum, are almost complete. The next stage is to commence the internal work, and then the reinterpretation of the Museum's displays and collections will take place later still. Obviously, for this to take place, the museum will need to close and be emptied. Work has already started on cataloguing documents and artefacts and then moving them into storage. This will result in the museum closing from 30th September. However, we will continue walks, talks, and other events. We will be working hard in the background to maintain the museum's presence in the village.

The telephone kiosk in the High Street outside Drapers has been cleaned and decorated and now offers Museum activities and literature to the public. We have also adopted the notice board outside It Takes a Village as well as one at Ziel. Thanks to Cat and Suzi for giving us the space. Other village organisations are invited to share the boards and telephone box, but please ask first.



We hope to have pop-ups in the village so we can continue meeting the public. Please follow the ECHM Facebook page and website for news of these projects.

Meanwhile, we'll continue as usual with the museum opening times, walks, talks, displays and community engagement.

September Events

9 September: Shalford History Group will visit the museum in the water tower and participate in a short Atlas Works Tour.

9 September, Gary Washbrook will be giving a talk to Kesgrave Boundless Group.

12 September, Heritage Open Day at the Quaker Meeting House. We will be there this year again with a pop-up display, 10am – 4pm, with a free walking tour hosted by John Stedman at 12pm. The theme this year is Hunt's Industrial Housing. Details can be found on FB, the website and Heritage Open Days' website

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/submission-event/earls-colne-heritage-museum-at-the-quaker-meeting-house-pop-up-and-walking-tour-2.html>

13 September, Heritage Open Day at Essex Industrial Archaeology Group 'Silver End 100' Silver End Village Hall CM8 3RQ. We'll be doing it all again, along with displays from other groups, including Crittall's Silver End, Courtauld's in Halstead, to name just a couple!

All Heritage Open Day events are free entry.

There are plenty of other events in Essex staged for Heritage Open Days, which run from 11-20 September. All are detailed on their website.

Earls Colne Heritage Museum can offer walking tours of Earls Colne and a variety of presentations for individual groups and organisations. Please contact chair@echm.org.uk for details.

Lastly, if you've never visited the museum in the water tower and would like to see it in its current layout which has served us well for 21 years, please visit before the end of September. We are open Wednesdays 2pm - 4pm and Weekends 12 - 4pm. Remember to come again when we re-open in 2027/28.

Thank you for your support.



Chappel Parish Council

Water on the A1124

The water on the A1124 was investigated and has now been fixed by Essex County Council.

Play Area

Chappel Parish Council have now secured funding to replace the infant play module and work will be commencing after the summer holidays.

Allotment Plot

Vacancy

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



Village in Bloom

Chappel Parish Council would like to congratulate Cllr Nigel Lippiatt and his team of volunteers for the beautiful flower displays in both Chappel and Wakes Colne – they look truly stunning and a huge amount of work has taken place so a huge thank you!

Speed Watch

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

Parish Council Vacancies

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

Parish Council Meetings

Our next meeting is due to be held on the 14th September, followed by the 12th October. These meetings will be held in the Village Hall starting at the new time of 7.00pm.

Contact details: Website: www.chappel.org
Chappel Parish Council <https://www.facebook.com/ChappelPC/>
Parish Clerk: Helen Cook **Email:** parishclerk@chappel.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



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Could you help shape the future of Wakes Colne?



Wakes Colne Parish Council is looking for new parish councillors — and you don't need any previous experience.

Have you ever wanted to have a say in what happens in our village? Parish councillors are local volunteers who work together to represent residents, support community projects and help make Wakes Colne an even better place to live.

What does a parish councillor do?

Parish councillors play an important role in our local community. They:

Represent residents' views and interests on local issues, including the emerging Colchester City Council (CCC) & Braintree District Council (BDC) local plans and the Norwich to Tilbury pylons;

Have a say in local planning matters, as the Parish Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications in the parish;

Support community projects and initiatives, such as station adopters and Villages in Bloom;

Help look after village assets, including street lights, bus shelters and Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs);

Work with other authorities, such as CCC and ECC, on matters including road repairs and vegetation maintenance; and

Help plan for the future of Wakes Colne.

You don't need to be an expert or have previous experience.

Full training, guidance and support are provided.

How much time does it take?

Wakes Colne Parish Council meets once a month, with occasional additional meetings or working groups.

The role is voluntary, but it's a great opportunity to contribute your **time, ideas and experience** to the village.

Could this be you?

You don't need previous experience — just an interest in Wakes Colne and a willingness to get involved.

We would particularly welcome interest from residents living in the Inworth Lane, Middle Green or Lower Green areas of the village, as having representation from across the parish would be especially valuable to the Council.

We welcome people from all backgrounds who are aged 18 or over. (Full eligibility criteria are available on our website.)

Your time can make a real difference to Wakes Colne.

Interested? Let's talk.

If you'd like to find out more about becoming a Wakes Colne parish councillor, **please get in touch with Peter, Denise, Barry or William.** We'd be very happy to have an informal chat and answer any questions you may have.

Email details and further information are available on our website:

www.wakescolne-pc.gov.uk



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Tina Jones - 07968 725424
Email: tinadogtraining@gmail.com



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

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1-2-1 Training

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Puppy advice

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

Life Skills, learning boundaries, good manners

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



Based in
Mount Bures

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



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