

The Chappel & Wakes Colne

Village Reporter



December 2024 to February 2025 Issue no. 123

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



For Christmas
Church Services
see Pages 3 & 4



Join the Millennium
Green 200 Club!
See page 8
For details

G & J Barron Farms

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Clubs to attend at
the Village Hall
See page 7
for details

Years 5 & 6 Children at Chappel Primary School, Enjoy a WWII Day Trip to the EARM

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 March to May 2025 issue - Monday 17th February 2025

LOCAL INFORMATION

Earls Colne Surgery: Appointments 01787 222022
Bures Surgery Appointments 01787 227529
County Councillor Lewis Barber 0787 6237137
Police Colchester Station 01245 491491 (non emerg. 101 emerg. 999)
Chappel C of E School Head Teacher Sarah Stevenson 01787 222296
Churches: COE Christine Maskell 01206 241261
Chappel URC Anthony Percival 01206 240442
Wakes Colne Post Office 01787 222449
National Rail Enquiries 03457 4849 50
Citizens Advice Bureau 0800 144 8848
Childline 0800 1111
Samaritans 116 123
Chappel Parish Council Clerk: Ms. Helen Cook 01206 589095
Chappel Website www.chappel.org
Chappel Chairperson Cllr. Sue Chamley sue.chamley@chappel.org
Wakes Colne Parish Council Clerk: Kevin Money clerk@wakescolne-pc.gov.uk
Wakes Colne Website www.wakescolne.org
Wakes Colne Chairperson Cllr. William Sunnucks William.Sunnucks@colchester.gov.uk
East Anglian Railway Museum Peter Martin 01206 242524
Royal British Legion (Ladies) Val Sayer 01206 240328
Women's Institute Neris Roberts 01787 223855
Village Hall Denise Stocker denise.stocker@woodbre.co.uk
Earls Colne & District Dog Training Club (Mon 7pm)
Val Sayer 07972 252987

VILLAGE REPORTER NEWS

A big thank you to our loyal advertisers, contributors and deliverers. Without these kind people, there would be no local magazine.

The Village Reporter Team would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year!

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.

The Village Reporter Team would like to thank Jean Collins for making a donation to the magazine. Jean has expressed her sadness after hearing of the death of Shelia and Norwood Simpson mentioned in the last issue of the magazine. She explained that when she moved to Wakes Colne 41 years ago, Shelia and Norwood welcomed her and daily delivered milk and a newspaper to Jean and her family. Jean also misses seeing Norwood cycling past her house as he took his exercise each day.
We would like to apologise to Norwood and Shelia's family for the error of names in the last paragraph in the article, in the last issue of the magazine. Shelia's parents were called Ellen and Alfred.

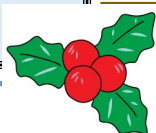
A Note From Your County Councillor

I have been pushing Essex Highways to fix Wash Corner and I am pleased to confirm full repairs are taking place in January 2025. This is coinciding with works prior to the full repair to resolve drainage issues in the area, to ensure the road is not damaged after being repaired.

There are also repairs down Station Road 6th-10th January 2025, which will involve a road closure. At the time of writing, we are still awaiting the outcome of the application for priority traffic controls at the bottom of Station Road. You may recall in my previous update I submitted this following a site visit. I have also contributed part of my locality budget towards the Parish Council's purchase of a Speed Indicator Device.

We have also launched a winter food support fund at Essex County Council, with applications open until 31st March 2025. The fund will support food support projects up to £2,500 per application. Please do get in touch if you have a project that may benefit from this fund.

I am keen to hear from the community with any matters you wish for me to assist with. Please do get in touch on cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk if I can help.
Councillor Lewis Barber



MEMORIES of LIVING in CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE

SUNDAY 6th APRIL 2025, 11am-4pm
AT THE VILLAGE HALL

SWING BY AND DROP-IN

EXPLORE a treasure trove of information

- scrapbooks covering nearly 100 years
- 42 audio recordings of 57 residents' memories (WW2 to date)
- photographic collections

HELP to identify people, places, dates, events

BRING your own memorabilia to share

REMINISCE with neighbours and friends

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED, ALL WELCOME

All you ever wanted to know about village life and history

Project undertaken under the auspices of Wakes Colne Parish Council for all residents of Chappel & Wakes Colne. Part of Colchester Recalled Project. Recordings to be deposited at the Essex Record Office and materials at the University of Essex.

Memories Team: Kath Beck, Kathy Brown, Sarah Hopkins, Val Sayer and Monica Taylor

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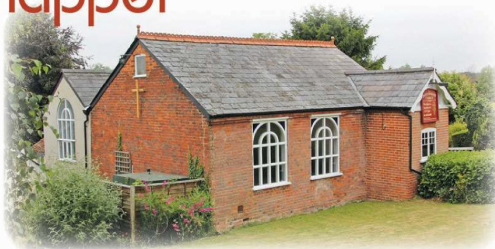
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The United Reformed Church in Chappel

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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 December, January and February

On Sundays at 6.30pm
URC unless indicated

DECEMBER

- 1 Alan MacNaught
- 8 **CAROL SERVICE**
- 15 Colin and Grace Boldock
- 22 Carol Nicholson
- 29 **NO SERVICE**

JANUARY

- 5 Brian Clow
- 13 William Glasse
- 19 Colin and Grace Boldock
- 26 Alan MacNaught

FEBRUARY

- 2 Brian Clow
- 9 Colin and Grace Baldock
- 16 To be announced
- 23 William Glasse

Christmas – a good cry . . .

Barbara Wheeler tells about flying from New York to California one December to make a speech at Fuller Theological Seminary. She booked first-class so she could work on it during the flight. But on the plane the next seat was taken by a woman with a baby, one "small enough to be carried in her lap, big enough to resist being restrained."

We've all been in Wheeler's position. Your heart sinks a bit, and you prepare for the worst, which, in this case, happened. The baby batted Wheeler's computer and grabbed her papers. When Wheeler put her materials away, the baby kicked and screamed. Other passengers, who were also trying to work, started glaring. Wheeler gave the flight attendant an imploring look. The flight attendant banished the child and his mother, who was both embarrassed and furious at everybody, to a seat

By the Rev'd Dr Martin Camroux a retired URC minister

elsewhere in the plane. She went back to writing about what Christmas meant.

When she arrived at Fuller the seminary president started the meeting with the familiar story in Luke 2. Then he talked about the carol *Away in a Manager*. "A great hymn," he said, "but one line is just wrong: 'Little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.' Not so. He cried. He cried for us. He died for us."

Wheeler said she was cut to the quick, and felt terrible all weekend at her self-importance and intolerance. Of course he cried. He was a baby, a totally human baby. That's the point. That is the incredible claim Christians make at Christmas: God with us in a human birth and a human life, God with us in the man Jesus, flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone. God living among us, God speaking the final word about us and to us, showing his love. Of course he cried.

Christmas is not about the arrival on earth of some superhuman but our finding God in a human life. Or as the Gospel of John says: 'And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.'

Happy Christmas, one and all

For Reflection – Jesus

*'Our God contracted to a span,
incomprehensibly made man'*

Charles Wesley 1749-1788

*'God came in Jesus, human life sharing,
gave his life for us'... 'By love's perfection
death was defied'*

Alan Gaunt 1935-2023

*'Christ is alive, and comes to bring good
news to this and every age'*

Brian Wren 1936 –

Our response...

*'O come to my heart Lord Jesus, there is
room in my heart for Thee'*

Emily Elliot 1836-97

News in brief . . .

'The Fascination and Fun of Historic Churches'

An enjoyable talk given by Roy Tricker, took place in October at the Village Hall. Tea, coffee and biscuits were served. £82 donations given for Church funds.

New Noticeboards

Two replacement noticeboards in a modern design have been erected – one on the gable end of the Chapel entrance porch which is automatically illuminated when dark, and a free-standing one at the top of the driveway.

Mission Partnership

Our Church has begun exploring with three other URC churches spread over a wide geographical area, future plans for sharing a minister.

Toilet Twinning Scheme

Adopted by many churches. After an initial donation our WC at the Chapel is twinned with a Latrine in the Democratic Republic of Congo



Sunday 8 December 6.30pm

Candlelit Advent and Christmas Carol Service

Tuesday
24 December
6.30pm

Christmas Eve Service

All welcome



Coffee and Chat

First Saturday morning
of each month at
10.30am

No charge – just drop in

Enjoy a 'cuppa',
cake and a chat



St. Barnabas Church, Chappel



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



All Saints Church, Wakes Colne

Church Warden - Chappel: Mrs Christine Maskell, tel 01206 241261, email: lbriar@aol.com
Church Warden - Wakes Colne: Nigel Impey, tel 01206 240260, email: nigelandfiona@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer: Richard Bareham, tel 07977 111817, email: wccpcctreasurer@gmail.com

Dear Readers,

We are now into our late Autumn Christmas issue of the Reporter where there will be extra services in December to celebrate the birthday of the Christ child, a time of anticipation for young and old alike as we decorate our homes, sing carols and celebrate all the lovely traditions of Christmas. Our services will be listed clearly below. We would love to see all and celebrate the joy of Christmas with you.

We had another joyful event in October when we had a lovely baptism in with our harvest thanksgiving service. Evie and Richie Halls from Chappel got baptised which made our harvest worship doubly special, we welcome their family to our church. On the 28th September Valerie Callum's ashes got interred at Wakes Colne, our thoughts go to Doug her husband, at this time. Reverend Ian Scott-Thompson and his wife Jane have left our area now and retired to Portsmouth. Our Benefice will definitely miss them but wish them well in their new life. Due to Ian's retirement our Benefice is once again in interregnum. Please, as we now have no priest in charge, could you address any queries, concerns or requests baptisms, weddings, funerals etc to myself and I will be able to help you. My number is 07748968083 or 01206 241261, please leave a message if I am unable to answer immediately, I will return your call promptly. We have been extremely blessed with the kind offer of Reverend John Richardson and Reverend Emma Barr to cover our communion services and also some special services, grateful thanks to them.

We had a very successful concert performed again by the Abbeygate Band at the Village Hall and our lovely Chappel School held another service in Chappel Church for their Harvest Thanksgiving as well as a Remembrance Service on November 11th. The children performed so well with readings, songs, poems, artwork and prayers on both occasions. The classes laid wreaths, under the oak tree in the triangle, they had made to remember those who had lost their lives in the two world wars, a very moving tribute from the children and our thanks go to them and all their staff.

I think I have caught you up on all our news and it just leaves me, on behalf of our two churches, to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New year, may it be a joyful one for you all. God's blessings to you.

Christine Maskell



CHURCH SERVICES

- 10am 1st December Sunday, Morning Worship
CHAPPEL Church
- 2.30 -3.30pm 11th December Wednesday,
Christingle service CHAPPEL School at CHAPPEL Church
- 6.30pm 12th December Thursday, CHAPPEL School
Carol service for key stage 2 children and their families at CHAPPEL Church
- 3.15pm 22nd December Sunday, Readings and carols at CHAPPEL Church
- 10am 24th December Tuesday, Christmas Eve in CHAPPEL Church, information below
- 10am 25th December Christmas Day Wednesday, GREAT TEY Church Benefice Holy Communion
All welcome
- 10am 5th January Sunday Morning Worship at WAKES COLNE Church
- 10am 26th January Sunday Benefice Holy Communion at WAKES COLNE Church
- 10am 2nd February Sunday Morning Worship at CHAPPEL Church
- 10am 23rd February Sunday Benefice about communion at Chappel Church

We invite you all at 10 am on Christmas Eve to CHAPPEL with your four legged family (bonios for all!) to a Crib Service with carols at CHAPPEL CHURCH led by Reverend Emma Barr. More dogs the merrier to join in the singing!!!



Tina's Pet Dog Training

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



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

Outdoor Group Classes (Mount Bures)

- mixed class of puppies, adolescent and adult dogs

1-2-1 Training

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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



Based in Mount Bures

"Tina is amazing! She came round today for a first introduction and now within a few minutes she had my 15 month old puppy doing things she hasn't done since I got her. Not only that she's given me lots of pointers to work on, advice with my new pup, we have booked a 1-2-1 session and the puppy training class."

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



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Bee Lines

Nearly Christmas again, and so soon after the last one! As I sit here at my desk, the view from my window is dominated by a single tree, as illustrated. The tree in question, as many of you will know, is a walnut, and walnuts hold particular memories for me at Christmas time for reasons I will attempt to explain.



My childhood recollections of the festive season are steeped in routines. Christmas lunch was always the full turkey fest, hosted by my parents and featuring almost all of the extended family. On Boxing Day, the family regrouped for a day of festivity, entirely connected with food, at my grandmother's house. Grandma was a stickler for tradition and a creature of habit. Lunch was always roast beef with Yorkshire puddings and numerous vegetables. Although in many ways an excellent cook, she did have a tendency to boil all veggies to within an inch of their lives, but everything was always beautifully presented and plentiful. We were encouraged to eat as we had never eaten before, and we did our best to comply.

After clearing away the lunch things, we were usually joined by a few of the more peripheral members of the family, who had been invited to join us for afternoon tea. Grandma would appear in the lounge with copious amounts of freshly brewed tea, served with great slabs of her famous homemade cherry sponge cake, a wonderfully light delicacy, so light that she could never manage to stop the cocktail cherries from sinking to the bottom of the mix during the baking process.

By now it was about five o'clock and we had been eating non-stop for around four hours. It was nearly time for supper. A few more family members would drop by, so there might have been ten or twelve of us gathered back around the dining room table, by this time laden once again with a great variety of food-stuffs.

The meats were eaten cold; there was turkey from Christmas day, cold beef from lunchtime, an enormous baked ham and a pressed cold tongue. Great bowls of salad and mountains of bread and butter; and then again, there were the pickles, each decanted into its own small cruet dish, and scattered randomly about the table. Another eating marathon was about to begin.

I must have been around five or six, the year would have been 1960 perhaps, when I first noticed the pickled walnuts. (I told you this would be about walnuts). There were three of them in a small dish with a small amount of pickle juice. They looked most unappetising, black and wrinkled and most out of place amongst the magnificent and colourful spread which surrounded them. At some stage during the meal, Grandma would raise the dish of nuts into the air and with a flourish ask the assembly if anyone would like a pickled walnut. No one ever did.

As a small child, it is easy to refuse an unfamiliar foodstuff, but it gets more difficult with advancing age. As the walnuts had a habit of reappearing every year, I began to listen to the excuses made by the more senior family members in refusing the offer of a pickled walnut with their meal; "Thank you very much but I really could not manage another mouthful" and "That's very kind but I have yet to finished my pickled cabbage" were two of the most popular. The walnuts invariably were returned to the kitchen intact, to reappear next year.

As the years progressed the walnuts became a bit of a standing joke in the family, although I am not sure if Grandma was ever in on the joke. The rest of us certainly were and conversations would begin around late October as to whether we expected the nuts to appear next year or not; but materialise they always did.

Grandma lived to a ripe old age, finally passing away in 1989, although she had been too frail in her last few years to host her Boxing Day celebrations. We had almost forgotten the saga of the pickled walnuts, until the time came to clear out her kitchen cupboards after her passing.

At the back of her larder cupboard was an old dusty pickle jar, its faded label declaring that at once upon a time it had housed pickled walnuts. The jar was half filled with an oily black liquid which smelled as if it might historically have been malt vinegar. Three small round objects were found at the bottom of the jar; grotesquely deformed and sponge like, the pickled walnuts were still there.

And that, dear reader, is why I always associate walnuts with Christmas. I hope your Christmas will be more conventional than some of mine were, although I always enjoyed mine enormously. I wonder what the bees would have made of it all!

Your bee correspondent, The Old Drone

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CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE WOMENS INSTITUTE

Way back in August we had our outing which this year was to the beautiful grounds of The Place for Plants at East Bergholt. This has often been referred to as a "Cornish Garden in Suffolk" and covers twenty acres of varying terrain from the arboretum containing very unusual trees, many of which we had not seen before. There are also lovely ponds which create a very tranquil area where the world seems to be left behind. As we were a WI group the owners, Sara and Rupert Eley, granted us access to their private garden behind the beautiful house. Homemade cakes in the café was a fitting end to a successful day.

It was an evening of total relaxation in September when Dawn explained Reflexology – one of the complimentary therapies which involves specific points on our bodies which correspond to organs and glands in the body. These treatments go back many years originating in China and Vietnam. Demonstrations with essential oils and smelling of assorted phials put everyone in a very chilled out state of mind.

In October, we welcomed Amanda Sutherland the ultimate recycler who creates wonderful things from pre-worn items of clothing. She has a truly inspirational collection of jewellery made from aluminium cans – not that you would ever have guessed from the end result – what a clever lady!

Dates for your Diary:

December 18th will be our Christmas Social Evening with Buffet. January 2025 – Jane Taylor on Beauty Products from the Beehive February – Abigail Wickes – Exploring ways we can conserve water in our homes and gardens March – Lucy Allen – On the Buses.

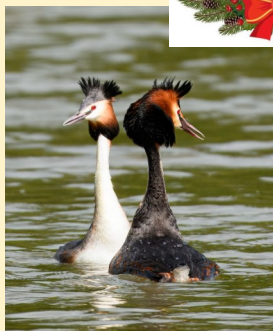
Dates will be shown on your programme for 2025

Meetings in the Village Hall at 7.30 – visitors will be most welcome. Fee of £5 for non members which includes refreshments and homemade cakes.

Dorothyb.crees@googlemail.com

Nature notes November 2024

It's time to do two things: welcome our winter bird visitors; think back on the highs and lows of the year. A quick visit to Mersea (Cudmore Grove) in mid-November was in true wintery weather of grey skies and a cold breeze bending the reeds, the sea calm but equally grey, with a light that made distant things look closer than they really are. Three winter plumage Great Crested Grebes were on the water and much further out than they seemed.



The Brent Geese had arrived, squadrons of them around either refuelling on the fields and grassy water meadows alongside the sea-wall, or coming in low off the sea. In front of the feeding geese were perhaps one hundred Curlew hunkered down among the dead thistles. On the water behind the sea wall were large groups of Wigeon, making their cold whistling call, a pair of Little Grebe and dozens of Teal. A few Shovelers too. Along the sea edge many Redshanks were probing away on the mud just uncovered by the falling tide, together with large numbers of Turnstones well camouflaged on the stony beach, a couple of Ringed Plover with them and a Sanderling flying away over the water. On a wire fence, a winter plumage Stonechat. A classic picture of an Essex coastal marsh at the start of this season.

Global warming is changing bird distributions. Birds that you used to have to go to the Mediterranean to see are now here. Think Little Egret – fifteen years ago a great rarity, now every day on the coast and often in the Colne by The Swan. That followed by Great White Egrets and Cattle Egrets, both breed at Abberton now. These are the easiest to see as they are large and white, but there are others too, like Cetti's Warbler. Fingringhoe, a brief explosion of chattering noise, that'll be a Cetti's. A fab rarity twenty years ago, now a pretty common encounter even in winter.

The trip over to Mersea / Cudmore was not only to see the winter birds arriving, but to try to see a reported Yellow-browed Warbler (YBW). This is not a breeding bird here, nor a true winter visitor, but an example of changing migration patterns. It is a West Siberian breeder, migrating to South Asia in the winter, but increasingly there is a small movement of them coming west rather than south east. This is a tiny green bird, hardly bigger than a Goldcrest (with which it is often seen), two bars on the wings and a distinctive yellow eye stripe. This has been a good year for YBW's along the UK east coast in general, with some being seen at The Naze. Being ultra long-distance migrants, they tend to get here later in October and into November. This one had showed up on Mersea in mid-November and been around for a few days. I didn't find it: being so small it is always needle in a haystacks stuff. Disappointing? A bit, but (smug...) I had seen two a few weeks earlier in North Devon.

How was 2024 overall? The verdict is not great really, although things had started well with January's Waxings at Severalls. Normally as rare as an appointment at the Pump House Surgery, this was an invasion year and they popped up all over the place. I saw them after a few attempts on 1st January. March also started well with both Brimstones and Peacocks out and Siskins on the garden feeders.

Then it got cold and wet. My greenhouse plants germinated and then refused to grow on, but it was amazing that the House Martins turned up early in April and Orange Tips danced around the hedges. I heard my first Cuckoo on 1st May, which was a late date. Late May had a big display of Bee Orchids off Pope's Lane, and Kites became an everyday sighting through the rest of the year.

The rest of the year was forgettable. Yes, the dragonflies were prolific, but the main failure were the butterflies, with no Painted Ladies or Small Tortoiseshells and few Red Admirals. My Purple Hairstreaks in the garden oaks did make it through, but overall, the garden butterflies were in line with the national position – numbers frighteningly low. Now its winter, the feeders busy with a large flock of Goldfinches and Blue and Great Tits, but so far, no large numbers of Greenfinches. A daily Coal Tit though is a nice bird to see.

All the best for Xmas and the New Year

Tony Witcher

Colne Valley Community Energy Project

The village hall was buzzing with delegates, speakers and exhibitors for the Colne Valley Community Energy Project Showcase Day at White Colne village hall on Saturday 16th November. White Colne have eliminated all fossil fuel from their village hall and created an income stream by installing 30 solar panels, batteries, an air source heat pump, electric cooking and EV chargers, all supplied and fitted free by accessing grants. For the morning business session we had about a dozen interested small businesses and parish councils hoping to follow their example, and in the afternoon session for residents the room was full.

Too many excellent presentations to go through them all here, but all the information is being put on our website www.colnevalleycep.org, so please have look if you'd like to live greener, save money, or both.

The ones I'd especially like to bring to your attention are Christopher Blomeley, Colchester Community Energy, Ben Plummer, the Climate Emergency Officer for Colchester City Council, and Alex Templeton, who spoke on the new Pay as You Go solar contracts that enable you to cut your electricity tariff from the current cap of 24.5p to 16.8p/unit with no upfront cost. If you agree to have solar panels on your roof, or in your garden, at no cost to you, you only pay 16.8p for the electricity they generate, rather than the current price of 24.5p. How much power you can access depends of course on how many panels you have, and they will generate more during the long sunny days of summer than in the winter. The not-for-profit company fitting the panels gets the benefit of the surplus but uses some to pay off the cost of the panels so in time they will become yours. Please look at the information on our website.

Christopher is funded by UK Power Networks to come to our homes and give 1 or 2 hours free advice, on everything from the best energy tariffs to switch to, using our free Thermal Imaging Camera to find where your home may be leaking heat, to replacing your gas or oil boiler with a heat pump or electric boiler. He is not a business and will not sell you anything, he simply offers good, free advice.

There was a lot of free advice on offer at Ben's Colchester City Council stand too. As well as energy advice he could help with income maximisation, accessing benefits, and grants which could be used for insulation, boiler replacements and improved ventilation.

Lots of ways to have a warmer winter, and if you're quick, maybe even a cosier Christmas.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and green New Year, spending time with those you care about, hopefully sourcing any gifts from preloved sites, and wasting no food or drinks!

Jill Bruce

Lead Climate Ambassador, Federation of Essex WIs

Alex Stevenson of Jordan's Farm Rewilding Initiative chatting with Denise Stocker, Chair of Chappel Village Hall Committee and Jane Taylor, Chair of White Colne Parish Council at the Colne Valley Community Renewable Energy Project Showcase Day



CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL

We begin our News update by announcing the retirement of our Chairman, Francesca Mead. Without a doubt, we all thank Francesca for her contribution to the Village Hall and wish her every success as she continues her role as Treasurer for the Chappel & Wakes Colne branch of the W.I. I have big boots to follow now that I have stepped in to the Chairman's role.

The Village Hall needs some major work over the next few years, including a new kitchen roof and some attention to the car park, not to mention ongoing internal improvements. We will keep you updated as we compile our priorities & plans.

Our role as Trustees is to keep the Hall in a good state of repair and promote the Village Hall to Hirers for private functions, clubs and associations. Therefore, it is imperative that we always look for ways to improve our facilities to attract hirers to our beautiful village hall.

We held our Autumn Fair in October and a big 'thank you' goes out to the good ladies from the W.I. With their help, we were able to serve hot and cold food along with teas, coffee and the delicious cake which they donated. In all, just over £300 was raised, boosting our Village Hall maintenance pot.

The Common Ground Theatre Company gave us a cracking performance of their own production 'Ghost of the Toll Point Night'. A big thanks to Julian Harries and the Company. We had 59 in the audience and, for the first time in many years, we had the BAR open, serving beers, wine and non-alcoholic drinks prior to the play starting and again during the interval. The feedback was extremely positive, and I am sure we will be doing this again in the future.

The committee are planning a few more fund-raising events next year and would welcome your views on what you would be interested in. Ideas being given to us are, for example:

Quiz, Barn Dance, Horse racing, film evening, Bingo or perhaps a Community Coffee morning

What do you think? let us have your thoughts & feedback on our past and future events. Please email me at denise.stocker@woodbre.co.uk or chat to any of our committee members who are all keen to hear what you have to say.

Finally, I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to the other Village Hall committee members. They all give up their time for free and I cannot tell you enough about the effort they all put in doing the best they can for our beloved Village Hall.

So, until next time, wishing you all Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Denise Stocker

Like and follow us on facebook:

[villagehallchappel&wakescolne](https://www.facebook.com/villagehallchappel&wakescolne)

See us on:

www.chappelandwakescolnevillagehall.co.uk



Don't Forget the regular clubs and classes held at the Village Hall

Colne Valley Art group – every Tuesday 1pm – 4pm

Call Peter Chillingworth 01206 240230

Tia-Chi and Chi-Gung group – every Tuesday 7.15pm – 8.30pm

Call Glynis on 07754 758961

Seated yoga/gentle mat yoga class – every Thursday 2pm – 2.45pm

Yoga class - every Thursday 6pm – 7pm

Booking is essential for both classes – call Sue Godwin on 07919 856607

Chappel & Wakes Colne Women's Institute – meet 3rd Wednesday every month 7.30pm – members free. Non-members £5.00 incl. tea & cake

If you are interested in using the Village for your group or club,
please call Glynis on 07754 758961



We're delighted to welcome three new

teachers to our school community, who have settled in wonderfully, bringing fresh energy and enthusiasm to our classrooms. This term, we are also excited to share our new vision and verse: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9). We look forward to celebrating these values during our Vision and Values Day in January. Improvements to our school building have helped enhance our learning spaces, making them even more welcoming and functional. Recently, Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a fantastic WWII Day and an inspiring visit to the railway museum, deepening their historical understanding. We held a special Remembrance Day service at the church, with the support of Reverend Emma, as we honoured those who served and remembered them together as a community. Each class made and laid a wreath under the oak tree on the Green.

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

Mrs Sarah Stevenson, Headteacher



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

It was lovely to see those who attended the Remembrance Service at Wakes Colne Church and on the Green on Sunday 10th November. Thank you to all those who donated to the Poppy Appeal in the villages.

Thank you to the following people and businesses for their support and for displaying collection boxes: the Railway Station and museum, school, Post Office shop and The Swan. Best wishes to all for Christmas and for the New Year. Val Sayer 01206 240328.

Below: Wreaths made by the children at Chappel Primary School were laid under the oak tree on the Green.



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Chappel Millennium Green



As the Millennium Green begins to enter its period of rest and regeneration, I must start this article by paying tribute to Tony Langley. After many years of faithful service on The Green, Tony has decided to retire from his role as Operations Director. Tony has been responsible for much of the new planting and for directing the day to day maintenance schedules over recent years. He oversaw the development of The Millenium Green Management Plan in 2019 which details and records all Flora and Fauna on the site together with a long term strategy for ongoing management and maintenance. He will of course be keeping a watchful eye on the rest of the team in between working his very productive allotment on The Parish Field and his garden at home. Thank you Tony from all the community and good luck with your next project.



As Autumn colours herald the changing season and the sun casts low shadows across The Green, maintenance work continues and the grass on the lower water



meadow has received its annual cut.

The verges of the boardwalk have been strimmed to ease access and the lower canopy of adjacent trees have been lifted to allow light to enter and create greater openness.



The 200 Club continues to generate essential funding towards the upkeep of The Green and I am pleased to announce we now draw two winners every month. A first prize of £50.00 and a second prize of £20.00. Recent prize winners are as follows:

September 2024 Draw – Ticket Number 85 – Marcia Banham £50.00

September 2024 Draw – Ticket Number 117 – Stephen Thompson £20.00

October 2024 Draw – Ticket Number 104 – Richard Ingram £50.00

October 2024 Draw – Ticket Number 62 – Laurence Ingram £20.00

November 2024 Draw – Ticket Number 25 – Jamini Kandeep £50.00

November 2024 Draw – Ticket Number 54 – Peter Twyford £20.00

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.

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

With Every Good Wish for Christmas and The New Year
Peter Neubauer, Chairman, Chappel Millennium Green

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Chappel and Wakes Colne Station Adopters

Thank you all for your kind and welcome comments about the planters on the platform and the new garden at the entrance to the station. The flowers and shrubs have been full of colour bringing pleasure to villagers, visitors

and travellers. The garden has been tidied for the winter. We have planted over 100 daffodil bulbs which will bring delight in the spring. We have also spread mulch to feed the plants, suppress the weeds and keep in the moisture.

Our plans to install a two seater bench beside the garden at the entrance to the station in memory of Valerie Callum are moving ahead. We are in discussion with Doug about the design. We believe the bench will provide a place to rest for weary walkers, tired travellers waiting to be collected from the station or to simply sit and enjoy the flowers. We are grateful to the

Parish Council for a grant of £400 to cover the cost.

One of the great things about volunteering at the station is working together, perhaps watering, putting in new plants, and keeping the station looking attractive. Now that the garden is established, our focus is on maintenance. If the Platform2 café is open we



go for a coffee and cake afterwards. We are also the ears and eyes of local people and feedback issues to Greater Anglia. For larger tasks we have great support from Graham King (Handy King) and Railscape, which has the contract to maintain aspects of railway stations in East Anglia. Al and I would really welcome new adopters. You can bring more ideas about how to improve the station and enjoy easy gardening in the company of others. The time commitment is only as much as you wish to contribute. You do not need to be an expert gardener. I knew nothing when I started. To volunteer on the platform you need to be approved by Greater Anglia as an adopter, but there is no need to go through that process if you prefer to help with the garden at the entrance. We are hoping to draw up a rota for help with the garden, especially with watering, next summer. If you would like to know more about how you can help as an adopter or with watering the garden, please contact Kath Beck on 07774871495 or email teyfields@gmail.com

Our contribution to the 175th anniversary celebrations for the viaduct and railway line brought us many new friends and contacts in the village and beyond. The East Anglian Railway Museum made a video of the events on 30 June, and Waj Mirecki's amazing exhibition. You can find it on YouTube: 175 Years of Chappel Railways East Anglian Museum.

Community Rail Network is a national movement that supports station volunteers and its 'members to be effective in connecting communities with their railways, delivering social, environmental, and economic benefit.' Although we are not formally members of this group, it is influential in our work and funded the booklet of children's work about the Navvies who built the viaduct. Recent research carried out by Community Rail Network has shown that the work of volunteers creates a social return of £17.89 for every £1 invested. If you wish to know more about the findings in a very brief, quick and easy to read report, go to communityrail.org.uk and search 'The value of community rail'. It is very informative about the purpose behind station adoption, community rail and its impact on communities nationally.

In the New Year I am sure you will hear a lot about Rail200 which is a nationally organised celebration of 200 years of passenger railways. We do not have any firm plans yet. The year has flown by. With your amazing support we have made lots of good memories. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kath Bec and Al Cochram, Station Adopters.

TONY PERCIVAL CELEBRATES HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

Tony Percival, Secretary and Organist at Chappel's URC, was given a surprise birthday party after the service on 17th November 2024. Tony has lived in the villages since the age of 4 and has dedicated his life to the organisation and running of the URC.



A wonderful spread was prepared for the party. Tony and his church friends greatly enjoyed the celebration!

Extended Opening Hours

The Museum is trialling extended opening hours so for the near future we will be open Sat and Sun 12pm -4pm; Weds and Thurs 2pm-4pm. We'll take a break for Christmas so will be open Sunday 15th December and then re-open Saturday 4th January.

Forthcoming Projects

We have several projects in progress and would welcome more volunteers to assist us or help at the museum. Full support given.

The Timekeepers of Earls Colne. The church Clock – or more correctly the parish clock situated in the church- was installed to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1897. With limited accessibility, its inner workings have been a well-kept secret! We are now writing its history and producing a video with an aerial view.

Earls Colne 1974-2024 We have commenced working on updating the history of Earls Colne last written in 1974 by the then Earls Colne branch of the Workers Education Association.

Other projects include A Village Trail and the scanning of important heritage documents.

We are also continuing to arrange a full program of events for 2025.

Sat 1st March - Earls Colne was nearly the Home of the First Helicopter The Con Club, York Road. Tickets £5 from Earls Colne Heritage Museum or email chair@echm.org.uk

More information on us and our events can be found through FB and our web site or join our mailing list.

www.echm.org.uk

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

All that's left for 2024 is to wish readers and supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



GOOD NEWS !

We are very pleased to welcome our new member, Barry Walsh, to the Community Speed Watch Team. Barry has successfully completed his online and roadside training, so he will be joining us on future CSW sessions. Thank you Barry, it's good to have you onboard.!

DID YOU KNOW ?

During the three months August, September & October this year, **171,759** vehicles were recorded travelling just ONE- WAY along the A1124 through our two villages. * speed device A1124

51.3% were travelling at 30 mph or less, which sadly means that **48.7%** were travelling in excess of 30mph, with one of the most serious offenders being recorded driving at **60mph at 18.10hrs !!!**

For further breakdowns of data, please see our facebook page, Chappel & Wakes Colne Road Safety & CSW

CHAPPEL HILL

A new speed device has recently been installed on Chapel Hill. It is working very well, alerting drivers of their speed as they approach Swan Street however, just a couple of hiccups to be resolved before it starts to provide us with similar data as the A1124 equipment. This matter is in hand.

ROSE GREEN

The long battle continues with Essex Highways to permit a speed device in the Rose Green area of the A1124. It is dearly needed, as vehicles entering Chappel from Colchester seem to need reminding that they are entering a 30mph residential zone.

NEW RECRUITS

Because the 'rules' have changed and we must now have **three** trained members on each shift, it is so important that we attract more new CSW members. Full on-line and roadside training is provided and you are never on your own. Please give **Patrick** a call on **01787 220147** to find out more about becoming a volunteer and helping our village roads become safer.

THANK YOU ! From the CSW Team

CHAPPEL PARISH COUNCIL



Chappel Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers who help the Parish Council look after the village and to wish all its residents a Merry Christmas.

Call for Sites

Colchester City Council are currently evaluating the sites that have been put forward. We expect to have a list of proposed sites which will go out to consultation in February/March next year.

The Call for Sites Report and Interactive Map has been published and can be viewed: <https://colchester.oc2.uk/document/65>

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.

Speed Watch Volunteer

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

Play Area

The Play Area is well used by the children of the village, school and surrounding community. We will over the next couple of months be carrying out some repairs.

Further to this the Parish Council will be looking into funding to replace the junior play set in due course and if you have any ideas or requests for this piece of equipment please do message the Clerk.

Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings are due to be held on the 9th December & 13th January. 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 the Clerk and she 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**

MOBILE LIBRARY

Visits Swan Grove, Chappel 2 to 2.30pm. Note: sometimes the van arrives early)

Next dates: Tuesday 31st December 2024, 9th and 30th January and 20th February 2025

TRACTOR RUN Sunday 5th January 2025

The tractor runs starts at Bures Church at 11.30am and will reach Station Road, Wakes Colne about 11.50am and then run along A1124 to Wash Corner.



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WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

At the November meeting we welcomed back Denise Stocker who returns to the Parish Council as a co-opted member. We still have vacancies so we would welcome anyone interested who would like to join us in our efforts to make our village a better place. If interested, please get in touch with our Clerk, Kevin Money. Email: clerk@wakescolne-pc.gov.uk
If you would like to attend a meeting to see how we work or perhaps to ask questions, you are very welcome. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall. However, we are consulting on whether to move to bi-monthly meetings next year. If you would like an informal chat as to what membership involved, please contact me by email to chillingworthpeter23@gmail.com

We thank Paul Stocker for getting the VAS near the Village Hall operational. It is now providing useful data about drivers who speed through the village. Regretfully, it seems only heavy fines and loss of licence will deter some.

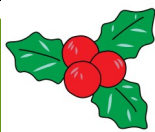
I would also like to thank Barry Walsh, our representative from Wakes Hall Park, and wife Jane for volunteering to take on the management of the planters by the bus shelters, and the book exchange.

Thanks to Denise, the defibrillator housed on the outside wall of the Post Office is now fully serviced and available for use in case of emergencies.

With the reluctance of County Highways to improve the state of the footpath beside the A1124 between the Village Hall and the Church, the Parish Council is investigating sources of funding to enable it to carry out the work itself.

I know it's early, but we wish all our residents a Happy Christmas and prosperous new Year!
Peter Chillingworth

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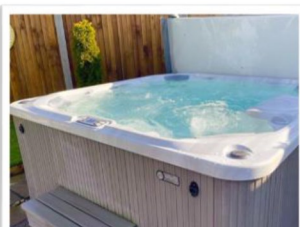
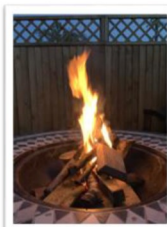
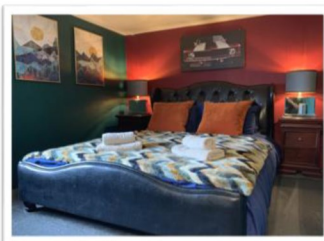
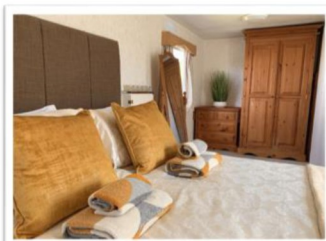
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LOCATION

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