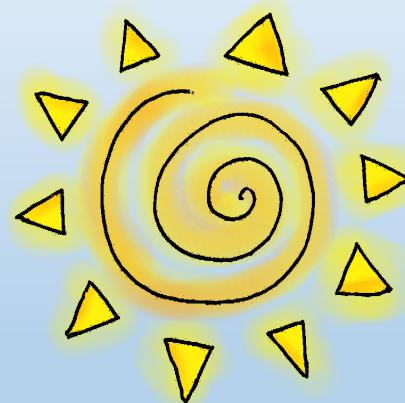
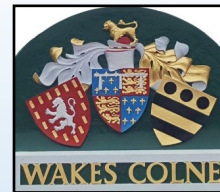


The Chappel & Wakes Colne

Village Reporter



June to August 2023 Issue no. 117

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



Kings Coronation Picnic Photos see page 7

Summer Church Picnic
27th July
See page 6 for details

Annual Parish Council
Report on page 9



Coronation Commemorative Service, Wakes Colne Church. See page 5

Exhibition of Work by Local Artists
16th September.
See page 6 for details

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Anyone wishing to submit an article for publication can contact Mandy Sexton on 07729236253 or
email: mandymsexton@hotmail.co.uk Press date for the September to November 2023 issue - Monday 21st August 2023

LOCAL INFORMATION

Earls Colne Surgery:	Appointments 01787 222022
Bures Surgery	Appointments 01787 227529
County Councillor	Lewis Barber 0787 6237137
Police Colchester Station	01245 491491 (non emerg. 101 emerg. 999)
Chappel C of E School	Head Teacher Julie Ingram 01787 222296
Churches: COE	Richard Bareham Tel. 01206 210799
Chappel URC	Rev. Kenneth N Forbes 01206 547920
Wakes Colne Post Office	01787 222449
National Rail Enquiries	03457 4849 50
Citizens Advice Bureau	0800 144 8848
Childline	0800 1111
Samaritans	116 123
Chappel Parish Council	Clerk: Ms. Helen Cook 01206 589095
Chappel Website	www.chappel.org
Chappel Chairperson	Cllr. Sue Chamley sue.chamley@chappel.org
Wakes Colne Parish Council	Clerk: Ms. Diane Jacob 07508787869
Wakes Colne Website	www.wakescolne.org
East Anglian Railway Museum	Peter Martin 01206 242524
Royal British Legion (Ladies)	Val Sayer 01206 240328
Women's Institute	Neris Roberts 01787 223855
Village Hall	Francesca Mead francescamed@live.com
Village Hall Bookings Clerk	Christine Underwood 0794 9510523

CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE WOMENS INSTITUTE

It was so lovely to see so many ladies at our March meeting – lots of new faces to boost our numbers. The talk was given by Gordon Bailey entitled Treasures Beneath our Feet. Gordon had been collecting artifacts found in the ground since he was fourteen years old and the interest, enthusiasm and knowledge had increased through the years so now he has a small museum filled with thousands of items found in all sorts of places. Gordon showed us a small selection of items and interspersed with tales of how these objects fitted into the past from Roman to Henry VIII – everything had a connection to life at that time. We even heard tales of the Witch Finder General – a character that you really would not have wanted to meet!

It definitely felt as if spring had sprung at our April meeting when we welcomed a wonderful turn out of members, friends and guests to hear our speaker Amanda Sutherland tell us of her creative journey. Amanda began by telling us about her early years getting into fashion design after attending the London College of Fashion. Her first job was at the Royal Opera House where she had won a nine-month bursary and enjoyed every moment. She was wardrobe assistant on Jesus Christ Superstar and fitted many famous stars with their costumes. Following that she went into bridal wear and again worked with celebrities and named dropped a few. The next career move was to join Angels – one of the main costumiers supplying clothes to productions ranging from EastEnders to Downton Abbey and the Bond Films. Needless to say, she had several amusing tales to share with us. Apparently, the Angels Company has fourteen miles of costume rails – can you believe that! Following this exciting time in her career she decided to embark on her own business from home, doing wedding design and creative recycled clothes and jewellery. Amanda had brought lots of her pieces for us to see and buy and you would never have guessed that the wonderful hats, broaches and many other items had been made from plastic milk bottles and coke cans – her talent was truly exceptional.

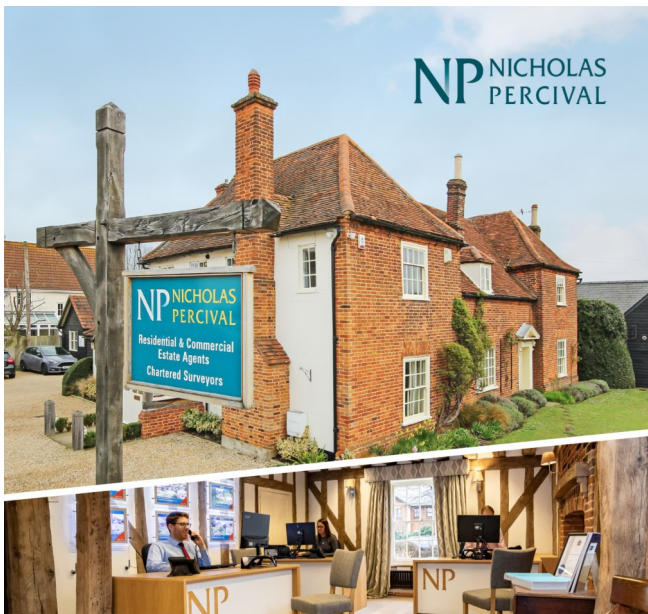
May was the Annual General Meeting where all formal proceedings were followed and the evening ended with a quiz and beetle drive which proved great fun.

The following are our dates for the next few months:

- June 21st – If you go down to the woods today – presented by Liz Hixley**
- July 19th – Talk about Bees by John the Bee Man – not to be missed**
- August 4th – River Trip and lunch outing.**

All welcome if you are not a member just come as a guest – 7.30pm
At the Village Hall

Dorothyb.crees@googlemail.com



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CHAPPEL ALE TRAIL



CHAPPEL ALE TRAIL

Saturday 4 March AND
Saturday 9 September 2023

10.30am-11am start window
Start/finish: Chappel Beer Festival at Chappel and Wakes Colne Station, Essex

Beautiful trail loop -just over 5 miles.
Finishers receive a bottle of beer.

2h cut off so fast walkers welcome alongside runners.
Entry to beer festival is separate-if you want to enter the beer festival afterwards you'll need to have purchased a ticket from them.

Register in advance for race via our website. No entries on the day.

www.companyofrunners.co.uk

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£10/12 affiliated/non-affiliated. Entrants to be aged 18+ no dogs as per Trail Running Association permit.




CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL NEWS

It's always a good idea to put on a good front ...

If you have seen the Village Hall from the road or pavement, we hope you will agree that it looks as good as new!

Wayne Goodchild and his assistant Nick Browning-Smith have been working hard to root out first the giant honeycombs found inside the outer walls and then a vast amount of rotten wood and old cables inside and boarding on the outside.

This was replaced by new wood, boarding and paint followed by refurbishment of our original Village Hall sign. We trust that thanks to their efforts and Enover's most valued grant monies the Hall is in good repair to face the future.

The Coronation flag flies joyfully overhead.

Rock Choir Concert on Sunday, 19th March at 2.30p.m.

Another sell-out - even on Mothering Sunday.

Adam and his wonderful choir, by now well at home performing in our Hall, might have brought the roof down if we were not so confident of its secure condition.

Patrick masterminded the event, as ever, and produced a House of Commons bottle of whisky signed by Rishi Sunak, which was auctioned off to the highest bidder. Valerie and Brenda produced their magnificent cakes for all, and a dedicated team soon took care of the crockery and cutlery.

Valerie Sayer ran the most successful raffle so far!

Our sincere thanks to them all for a marvellous afternoon and also for raising a record £900 for our Hall funds.

The Hellgate Club

Save the date! On Sunday afternoon, 29th October The Common Ground Theatre Company are coming to our Village Hall with their latest Autumn production.

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

Based on a real-life case of the time, Common Ground present a thrilling murder mystery, with live music in the style of the period.

Ticket prices will be the same as last year - adults £13, under 21s £10.

www.commongroundtc.co.uk

Want to develop your artistic talents?

Try Peter Chillingworth's art classes on Tuesdays from 1 - 4p.m.

Tel: 01206-240230.

Thinking of Keeping Fit?

Try Glynis Parker's Tia Chi on Tuesdays at 7p.m.

Tel: 0775-475891.

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

What about our thriving Women's Institute?

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

Keith Underwood

We are sad to report the passing of Keith, a dedicated Committee member and Trustee of the Village Hall. He will be very much missed by us all. We send our condolences to Christine and his family.

Francesca Mead



Open Gardens has been cancelled this year.
Hopefully the event will return next year
denise.stocker@woodbre.co.uk

VILLAGE REPORTER NEWS

If you are interested in being added to the Village Reporter mailing list, please sign up on the website, where you can also view past issues of the magazine, find local information and forthcoming events, view the gallery of photographs taken by villagers and have an opportunity to send in your stories and questions to share.

<https://www.chappelandwakescolnevillagereporter.com/> The website has been kindly produced and will be regularly updated by Charlie Sexton



Chappel Millennium Green

Walking around the Green as the early morning sun warms the air, listening to the chorus of songbirds is a treat not to be missed. But then again, walk the same path in the early evening and the scent of Hawthorn blossom and Cow Parsley is intoxicating. Spring is firmly upon us and the leaves on the trees seem to have appeared overnight.

Grass cutting and general maintenance is underway on The Green whilst Tony prepares to plant two newly acquired Tulip Trees. These will produce very distinctive leaves which will turn butter-yellow in Autumn. The Boardwalk which guides you around the lower water meadow is ready for a little maintenance. Wayne Goodchild has worked with us for many years and we are grateful for his support and expertise in maintaining this area.

The 200 Club continues to attract new members and I am pleased to welcome supporters from Layer Marney, Stanway, Braintree and Old Heath. A donation of £24.00 a year towards the upkeep of The Green, will give you 12 opportunities of winning £32.00. We will draw the prize winners each month at Chappel Parish Council Meeting which is held on the second Monday of every month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

We currently have 66 numbered tickets allocated in the 200 Club and I thank each one of you for your continued support. If the number of members increase, the value of the monthly prize draw increases also. Congratulations to the recent winners: March - Geoffrey Harrison, April - A&E Chapman and May - Chris Cordingley. As Spring blossoms into Summer, do continue to visit and enjoy The Green and all it has to offer our community.

With Every Good Wish, Peter Neubauer, Chairman
Chappel Millennium Green Trust
Mob: 07714 337137 or email: neubauer@btinternet.com



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St. Barnabas Church, Chappel



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

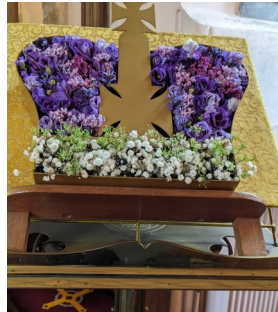


All Saints Church, Wakes Colne

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

Coronation Commemorative Service, Wakes Colne Church

As people entered the church they enjoyed a glass of limited edition Belvoir Farm sparkling Elderflower and after the service the Coronation cake was cut by Christine Maskell, as it was her birthday!



CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 4th June pcc led worship Chappel
Sunday 25th June communion service
Chappel
Sunday 2nd July Wakes pcc led service
Sunday 23rd July Wakes communion
Sunday 6th August Chappel pcc led service
Sunday 27th August Chappel communion
service all at 10am

Open Gardens Sunday 11th June 1.30 to 4.30pm

Bucklers Farmhouse, Great Tey CO6 1SB

The Fete Saturday 15th July 2.00pm

We will be holding the Fete on in Walcotts Hall Garden, by kind permission of Simon Hall and Nicki Bolton.

Chappel Viaduct was built by Peter Bruff between 1847 and 1849 for the Colchester, Stour Valley, Sudbury and Halstead Railway, later part of the Great Eastern Railway. It consists of 32 arches of 9.1m spans, is 320m long and has a maximum height of 23m. It is made of 7 million bricks which were fired locally at Bures.

This pack contains 32 postcard reproductions of watercolours by the artist Wladyslaw Mirecki showing each arch of Chappel Viaduct on its western facade. Each original measures 54 x 36cm and is painted on 638gsm Saunders Waterford CP (NOT) paper. They were painted between 2020 and 2022.

Wladyslaw Mirecki was born in Chelmsford in 1956 of Polish parentage. He is a self-taught artist having painted all his life including during attaining his Science Degree, as an industrial designer and as a co-proprietor of Chappel Galleries since 1986. His work has recently been acquired by the National Railway Museum, York and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge as part of their permanent collections.

A pack of 32 postcards showing the east side are also available.



Residents are welcome to



Stroll with a Patrol 30th August 2023 6pm at Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall

As we are approaching the summer-time, we are happy to announce we are running our stroll with a patrol initiative again, giving members of the community and partners the opportunity to come on patrol with us, for one hour, in and around the district. This year we will be holding a stroll with a patrol on a Wednesday and Sunday evening from 6pm with a street meet taking place at the same for those who wish to speak to us but not patrol. This is a really great opportunity for you and the local residents to come along, speak to, raise issues to and get to know the community policing team that are responsible for your area. The events in and around the city centre we would like to focus on what can be done in partnership to make people feel safer, however this theme does run through all of our patrols.

Dex Adams

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Thank you for supporting your local community

The United Reformed Church in Chappel

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: The Rev'd Kenneth M Forbes BA BD
Tel (01206) 547920 E-mail ken.forbes@virginmedia.com

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

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

The Minister writes . . .

To Witness

'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8)

In Luke's narrative, these are the last words spoken by the resurrected Jesus before he finally leaves his followers. Luke uses the episode to provide continuity with the end of his gospel – a kind of *'previously in the Good News...'* He tells the disciples what to do, where to do it, and how it can be done. They are to be witnesses; they are to witness everywhere; and they will do so in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Several questions come to mind, the first of which is *'what exactly does being a witness to Christ involve?'* The word *'witness'* is almost always used in a legal context. A witness is someone who gives testimony in court by telling of what they have seen; a witness can also be someone who signs a legal document to testify that it is genuine. At its simplest, a witness is someone who has seen something and tells of what they have seen.

For those who knew Jesus, and shared the immediate experiences of the resurrection, that would not be too difficult. A little later in the book of Acts, we find Peter saying. *'This Jesus, God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.'* It seems that the disciples took their mission seriously and did what they had been told. They *witnessed*. They related what they had seen.

Our instructions are not quite so clear. If we want to be witnesses to Christ then we have to give a little thought to what that means. We are assured of the constant presence of the Holy Spirit, and we know that there are Christians

all over the world – so the how and the where can be achieved. But we must ask ourselves, What have we seen? How has our faith changed our lives? What does Jesus mean to me? And having thought about it, and pondered the questions – **tell someone!**

Ken

A prayer . . .

*Holy Spirit of God – wake us up!
Release your gifts among your people,
so that together we may have all we
need to be effective and fruitful.
Empower us to take the good news of
Jesus out into our communities to bring
transformation and hope.*

Brian Harley (URC Prayer Handbook)

Coronation themed Tea and Quiz



held on 13 May, proved to be a really happy celebration. The Chapel was suitably bedecked with flags and bunting. We are grateful to David Tibbetts-Chaplin for organising. The 'Bring and Share' Tea was bountiful!



Preachers in June, July and August

On Sundays at 6.30pm

URC unless indicated

JUNE

- 4 Alan MacNaught
- 11 Brian Clow
- 18 Rev'd Ken Forbes
- 25 Sam and Helen Brown

JULY

- 2 Rev'd Andrew Royal
- 9 Rev'd Charles Martin
- 16 Colin and Grace Baldock
- 23 William Glasse
- 30 To be announced

AUGUST

- 6 Rev'd Dr Janet Tollington
- 13 Rev'd Charles Martin
- 20 Rev'd Ken Forbes
- 27 Rev'd Dr Martin Camroux

Keith Underwood – We were saddened to learn of Keith's passing. He became a member of our Church congregation together with his wife Christine in 2012. Our thoughts and prayers are with Christine.

Summer Picnic – Saturday 22 July at 5pm at 'Maynhoods', Inworth Lane, Wakes Colne. See more details on separate advert in this magazine and subsequently on posters nearer the time. We are grateful to Trudie Cresswell.

Monthly mid-week Activities at the Chapel

All are welcome to join with us

First Wednesday 10.30am

Coffee and Chat

Informal, no charge

Second Thursday 10.30am

Study and Discussion Group

The United Reformed Church in Chappel

Summer Church Picnic

By kind permission of Trudi Cresswell

5.00pm Saturday 22 July 2023
In the lovely garden at 'Mayhoods'

Corner of Inworth Lane and Middle Green, Wakes Colne
Parking in adjoining field (accessed from Middle Green)

Bring your own picnic!

Sweets/puddings and drinks provided • **Raffle**
Shelter if wet

Bring your own folding
garden chair

Donations invited
for Church funds

Please let Tony
Percival know in
advance
01206 240442 or
arpchapel@
btinternet.com

Part of our
On-going Social
Outreach



Colne Valley Community Energy Project
Next meeting

Earls Colne Constitutional Club Club, York Road CO6 2RN
7.30pm Monday 26th June

I'm delighted to report we are making excellent progress in bringing solar panels and batteries to all in Chappel and Wakes Colne who would like to benefit from more affordable energy bills with a lower carbon footprint. We already have about 50 email addresses of those interested. If you are interested and haven't received an email from me, please let me know at jillbruce321@gmail.com

If you have the spare cash of course you can just go ahead and have solar panels and batteries installed yourself, but if you choose to join the community project you will benefit from discounts achieved through economies of scale, know that Essex County Council will have conducted due diligence on the companies chosen to do the work, and be able to export your surplus energy to our community instead of to your energy company.

For those who prefer to have them installed for free, and benefit from discounted energy bills, we are looking for a total of 300 homes to attract the necessary inward investment, so we have expanded our scope to include Chappel, Wakes Colne, White Colne, Great Tey, Earls Colne and Colne Engaine. Cherry Mckean, co-owner of Ecolnes Refillery, Earls Colne, will be leading on the project in Earls Colne and Colne Engaine.

We've talked to Colne Engaine and Earls Colne Parish Councils, who both voted unanimously in favour of supporting the project and are doing all they can to let their residents know about it. We plan to speak to Great Tey Parish Council in June

For anyone who missed our meeting in White Colne Village Hall in March, we are holding others at **Earls Colne Constitutional Club, York Road, 7.30pm Monday 26th June, and Great Tey Community Centre 7.30pm Tuesday 4th July**, both followed by refreshments. It would be great to see you and your friends and neighbours there.

Jill Bruce email jillbruce321@gmail.com

Are You Low on Energy?

The war in Ukraine and the cost of living have highlighted concerns around energy security and cost, which has further brought the issues of global warming and renewable energy into sharp focus. As a result, there is growing interest in 'green' technologies – solar panels, heat pumps, electric vehicles etc. You may well already have one or more of these and if you're considering solar panels, I would highly recommend getting involved in the community project (contact Jill Bruce – jillbruce321@gmail.com).

I'm involved in a sustainability project at Colchester Garrison and our aim is to help the MOD reach their target of becoming Net Zero by 2050. What we have learnt is the path to greener energy and lower bills doesn't necessarily start with heavy investment in the newest 'green' technologies, it starts with user behaviour.

For waste we have become familiar with the advice to Reduce – Re-use – Recycle. For energy there is a similar approach:

Avoid – Don't do what you were going to do – hang the washing on the line rather than use the tumble dryer.

Reduce – Use less energy – an 'eco' setting, lower temperature wash, turn down the thermostat.

Restore – Use a renewable energy (e.g. solar panels).

The principle is that we should first try to lower our energy usage to minimise the amount of renewable generation required to meet our needs, which of course results in lower utility bills.

Below are some rough costs to run standard household appliances (data from energyguide.org.uk). The actual cost will depend on your energy tariff and the power rating of the appliance, but it is helpful as a guide:

Hot Tub - £1.06 per hour, Tumble dryer – 85p per hour, Washing machine – 71p per hour, Oven – 71p per hour, Hob – 61p per hour Dishwasher – 39p per hour, Microwave 34p per hour and Kettle – 3p for a 2-minute boil

The numbers speak for themselves but as an example if you run the washing machine 6 times a week on a standard 2-hour wash this will cost you around £440 a year in electric. If you have an 'Eco' or 'Quick' setting on the machine and can get each wash done in an hour that's over £200 saved in a year which will pretty much pay for both Netflix and Disney+ (non-negotiables in our house!). And of course, the washing gets finished in half the time!

LED lights also provide potentially significant savings – a 60W incandescent (filament) bulb will cost about 40p an hour to run, energy saving bulbs (which look like a mini fluorescent tube) are typically 15W so cost 10p an hour. LED bulbs are around 7W so 5p an hour to run (and don't have the warm-up period of energy saving bulbs). This is a 90% saving against the cost of a filament bulb and half that of an energy saving bulb.

There are plenty of other examples of how you can easily reduce your household energy demands – from only boiling as much water as you need rather than filling up the kettle, to checking the timers on outside lights so they are not coming on in 'winter' mode when it isn't getting dark until 9pm. Green technologies are the future but saving energy (and money) now will help us to transition away from fossil fuels.

Alan Cochram

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

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



This year's exhibition will take place on Saturday, 16th September.
10.30 am to 5.00 pm. All welcome to view, entry free. There will be homemade refreshments, tombola, etc



This is a preliminary notice so that works can be prepared in good time.
Entries £2 per item, no commission on sales.
Children 12 and under may enter up to three items free.



Please contact Peter Chillingworth for entry details. 01206 240230 or peter.chillingworth@btinternet.com

KINGS CORONATION PICNIC 7TH MAY AT EARM



Welly Wanging winners—Rowan and Mark Woodward!



A great afternoon was enjoyed by all. Thank you to the lovely ladies who organised the event—Lauren, Teresa, Mary, Amanda, Linda and Sue. £100 was raised for EARM from the raffle.



Chappel and Wakes Colne Station Adopters Group

At the time of writing, the groundworks at the station are coming to an end. The construction workers have been very helpful to the station adopters. They have understood our frustrations in wanting to maintain and develop the attractiveness of the station while the work was underway. The planters on the platform have looked very pretty.



With the backing of Greater Anglia and the government, land around the stations in East Anglia is being developed to attract bees and natural wildlife. The approach close to the station has been designated an area for natural diversity. Our thanks go to the East Anglian Railway Museum (EARM) Volunteers who have put up the notices to show that this is the case, and that the area is maintained by station adopters. Earlier in the year, young children, and their parent helpers, sowed wildflower seeds, and are now beginning to see the results of their efforts. There are plans for, Railscape, Greater Anglia landscapers, to plant wildflowers on the slope to the right of the EARM entrance, once the ground work is complete.

Plans to enhance the area around the talking bench have been placed on hold. They will move forward as soon as the area is clear, making this an even more pleasing place to sit and enjoy the environment.

Our thanks go to the children in the village school for painting new, exceptional pictures to display on the station platform as soon as the contractors have finished. These will replace the current pictures about bees, which will still be displayed in another part of the station.

In the autumn we plan to have a coffee morning where you, with members of the family can help to plant spring bulbs, and contribute to making the station attractive. More information nearer the date when details have been finalised.



The station adopters are always pleased to hear of ways that we can improve the station and make it a pleasant place for travellers. If you have ideas, please let us know by contacting teyfields@gmail.com
Katherine Beck

DUCK RACE 14TH MAY

Thank you to everyone who attended the Duck Race last weekend. Lots of fun was had by all and a massive £1,212 was raised, which will directly benefit all the children at Chappel school. A big thank you to all those who volunteered to help on the day, but the biggest thank you to Gemma and Darren King who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make it all happen. We are extremely grateful.

RACES KINDLY SPONSORED BY ABCO INSURANCE, HILARY WATERS, THE SWAN PUB, CROSBY BUILDING CONTRACTORS AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT HEART



BRITISH LEGION

Any queries please contact Val Sayer on 01206 240328

Nature notes May 2023

Despite the cold wet weather of early spring, some summer visitor birds made it with only a little delay. Our House Martins were back on 16th April (11th April last year) and Nightingales were singing at Abberton on 16th April, perhaps a couple of days later than usual. On the other hand, I didn't hear a Cuckoo around the village until 3rd May (13th April last year).

One benefit of the wet weather was that winter birds were late leaving. And that brings me on to wildlife spectacles. Not the known ones at well-known places for things like Starling or wader murmuration, great though they are, but the unexpected ones. I've had three recently, all very different, all unexpected, and all very memorable.

The first was in the garden under the feeders. Brambling is a rare visitor and in the last few years I've had one or two paying very short visits only a couple of times each winter. On 8th April, which is getting very late for Bramblings as they've usually set off for the top of Norway and beyond by then, there was a fine bright male under the feeders mopping up the crumbs of nuts spilt by the messy eaters above. Then a female, then another couple of males, and in the end, there were six, a record for my garden. Four males in varying states of change from winter to bright summer plumage, two females, and, they stayed around for most of the day. They are ground feeding finches, and were joined by several Chaffinches, while above on the feeders were 8 Goldfinches and 6 Greenfinches. A finch spectacular, and enhanced by one fine male Reed Bunting joining the gang on the ground for a while.

I don't normally talk about holidays, but I've just been to northern Greece and there were two spectacles there from birds which do occasionally make it to the UK in very small numbers each year. With global warming they might become more frequent visitors or even breeders in the case of the Tit.

Pratincole is an odd name for an odd bird, one that fires the imagination when leafing through the guide books. It is an exotic looking thing, mostly sandy brown, with a yellow black-bordered throat. The oddity is why is it in the wader classification, when it looks nothing like a wader. On the ground, it looks more like a small tern, and it feeds by hunting acrobatically for insects Swallow-like rather than probing around on the mud for worms. It is in effect a giant Swallow, long winged and with tail streamers.

Unusually, we'd seen none during the trip, and then over a field of poppies and buttercups there were suddenly 50 swooping around. There must have just been a hatch of flies which attracted them. In the crowd there were a few Hobbies and Swifts too, and they all zipped around for half an hour or so until the show suddenly ended as they all dispersed. They'd been flying so close that at one point my hat was almost pierced by a passing Pratincole. Spectacular stuff.

Once they'd gone, a colleague heard a Penduline Tit. Scanning for it, I couldn't see it, but I did find its nest. Penduline Tit weaves its pouch-shaped nest from fine hairy vegetation, the structure hanging from a branch by a thin woven thread. From a distance a precarious round ball on the end of a string. This nest was not finished in that the narrow opening hole was not there yet. The tiny bird, smaller than a Long-tailed Tit, then appeared, hopped into the incomplete nest and started to weave away. Magical stuff, and a true spectacle.

Back home and again at Abberton, the wet early spring had created a shallow lake in farmland opposite the reservoir. Many waders were on it: on the day I went many Ruff (one in near-breeding plumage finery with a white head and neck), a few Greenshanks, a Little-ringed Plover and the star attraction of a Pectoral Sandpiper. A visitor from North America, the few that make it over usually come in the autumn, so this was an unusual find and had attracted many birdwatchers in the week it was there. All very nice, yet not quite there in the spectacle category.

Tony Witcher

Bee Lines



As the Winter moved coldly towards spring, we fled these shores for a few days, seeking warmer sanctuary on the island of Malta. It was my first time there, and I must confess, I was very impressed.

Malta is by far the most "British" of the Mediterranean islands, boasting red telephone and pillar boxes, car tax discs and English (and Maltese) as the official language. They even drive on "our" side of the road. The weather was warm as well, but not too hot when we were there in early March.

Overall, the island represented excellent value for money, and of course, there was also some honey, as pictured.

I have to admit, this honey was delicious, but in this country, the labelling would be considered misleading, by nature of the word, "raw".

The regulations on labelling honey sold in the UK are fairly clear. It must contain the brand name, the address of the producer, the country or countries of origin, an expiry date and in some circumstances, a batch number. There is no legal definition of the word "raw" in relation to honey, so the use of such a term is not allowed.

The other contentious term is "organic" as although there is a legally allowed definition of organic when used for crops or vegetables, bees will forage over a wide area, and there is really nowhere in mainland UK where the bees will be guaranteed to have collected their nectar from only certified organic sources.

However, a visit to a well-known local supermarket revealed both organic and raw honeys on the shelf. Further searches online turned up companies claiming that "their" honey might well enhance your sleep, help with your allergies, in particular hay fever, boost your immune system and even delay the onset of dementia. All of these claims, as far as I can tell, are unproven; so, who is responsible to investigate and potentially prosecute the wrong doers?

This task rests firmly with the local authority in their responsibility for Trading Standards enforcement in their respective areas. The snag, of course, is that local authority funding has been heavily cut over recent years; there are much bigger issues than honey labelling, and most Trading Standards officers are far too busy to address the issue. When you also consider that the more outlandish health boosting claims are made by internet-based companies, it is often unclear as to exactly where they are based, and therefore which local authority should be investigating.

Does this really matter? I hear you ask. Well, when you consider the enormous prices charged for some of these online products, it probably does. If you think that these honeys really work for you, and you can afford them, then all is well and good, but please be aware that there is no definitive proof for any of these claims, so selling on these terms must, at the very least, be considered as sharp practice.

To consider the other side of this particular coin, the retail price of our locally produced honey has been dragged down for years by the insistence of major retailers in importing cheap processed honey in bulk from overseas producers and selling it at well below the manufacturing cost of UK producers. Unfortunately, on testing, much of this imported bulk honey has been found to be adulterated with large volumes of corn or sugar syrup, and even in some cases contain residues of pesticides that are banned in the E.U. and U.K.

So, unless the regulations are tightened, and then enforced, it remains a case of "buyer beware" and we must remember that if price looks too good to be true, it probably is, and this applies to both overly cheap and expensive, overly hyped honeys in equal measure.

As a mere hobbyist producer, the whole issue makes little difference to me, as I do not need to make a big profit on my honey sales, but I do feel for the mid-sized bee farmers who are caught up in the middle of this cost versus price dilemma, desperately trying to add value in the eyes of the public to a product which is so much superior to the regular cheap supermarket offerings, yet at face value, appears identical. For the major importers and retailers, however, I have no sympathy at all.

Here endeth the rant for now. I hope to talk more about my own bees in the next issue.

Your bee correspondent, The Old Drone



PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2023
THIS REPORT COVERS THE PERIOD
1st APRIL 2022 to 31st MARCH 2023

Good evening and I welcome you all to the Annual Parish Assembly meeting of Chappel Parish Council. If this is your first meeting I will just explain that this is not a Council meeting but our chance to look back on the work the Council has undertaken during the year. You may follow our activities by attending meetings, reading our Minutes or updates which appear in the Village Reporter.

As a Parish Council we strive for good practice and transparent decision making.

Chappel Parish Council receives funding from the local Council Tax known as the Parish Precept. The Council are responsible for administering funds received through the Precept for the benefit of the local community. Councillors are very aware of the trust placed in them by you to spend public money wisely.

Role of Chappel Parish Council:

- Represent the views of residents
- Liaise with Essex County Council and Colchester City Council
- Receive copies of all Planning Applications and make comment on them
- Maintain the children's Play Area, Allotments, Parish Field and Sports Field
- Arrange grass cutting and hedge cutting by Contractors
- Monitor the footpath network
- Maintain the Parish Council Website www.chappel.org and Facebook page
- Grants to Village Hall, Essex & Suffolk Community Rail Partnership – Jubilee Flower display and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Picnic at East Anglian Railway Museum

Bruce Knights left the Parish Council in July. We especially thank him for his work with the Poppy Trial Project and the World War 2 information board near the viaduct. Bruce oversaw both these projects which are great assets to the village.

Speed Watch and VAS projects. Patrick Dent and his small team of volunteers undertake speed watch sessions when time and weather permit. The team have been out and about in both villages for 7 years now. We thank Patrick and all his team for their time and effort in this cause. Several years ago in this report I described Patrick as "a dog with a bone" where Speed watch and Highway issues are concerned. I can report – nothing changes. Patrick will give a more detailed report shortly.

The positioning of a Vehicle Activated Sign has continued to be a feature on each Agenda over this year but hopefully this time next year I will have positive feedback.

Accidents along the A1124 at Rose Green and Broom House corner are being recorded and reported. Potholes and in particular the sunken drain on the A1124 continue to appear each month. With the support of Lewis Barber our Essex County Councillor we aim to have these problems resolved.

Sunday 22nd January 2022 saw the biggest party held in the Village Hall for some time in honour of Chris Eaton. Residents from Chappel and Wakes Colne and beyond came together to thank Chris for his loyalty, dedication and hard work. It was lovely to be present and see so many people gathered to show their appreciation to Chris. May I welcome Kande and Jemini to the Post Office and wish them every success for the coming years.

3 members of the Council planted 150 trees on the Parish Field as part of the Woodland Project run by Colchester Borough Council.

Our wonderful Play Area remains a big attraction to residents and visitors alike. Nick Ingram is our Councillor who monitors the area and keeps it topped up with bark. A native Oak Tree has been planted and a commemorative bench to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee is about to be installed. We thank Nick for all the time he gives to this asset of our Village. I would also like to express our thanks to Steve Bennett for his work and support with regard to both the Play Equipment and benches which he has mended, repainted and reinstalled.

Community Renewable Energy Scheme – in September 3 Councillors and Helen joined a Zoom meeting to understand the project and see if this is something the Parish Council could support. I am pleased to report Jill Bruce is here this evening and will update us further.

Our September meeting was cancelled due to the sad passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II following her death on the 8th September. Our October meeting commenced with a minutes silence.

Each year this meeting celebrates our two villages and those who work to make and keep them places where people wish to live and visit. Many thanks are due to those who work behind the scenes and support those of us who sit on the Council.

Chappel Parish Council continues under the guidance of Helen our Clerk who joined us in October 2012. Helen is invaluable to the Council for her knowledge and work undertaken on our behalf. She has guided us this year to Online Banking which was no mean feat!!!!

To Peter, Nick, Tony, Patrick and Amber who all have their areas of expertise and ensure the smooth running of each Council meeting. We continue with our Contractors Jack Perfect-Brown and his team for grass mowing, Jonathan Doe for hedge cutting, Tom Leggett for tree work and bark supplied for the Play Area. David, Roger and Ross Barron for being here when we need them. Cathy Beard with Jim as support for emptying the play area bins, litter picking and extras they both do. Angus Forrest for support when needed. To all who make Chappel a wonderful place to live.

We do have two Councillor positions vacant. Please come along to one of our monthly meetings held on the second Monday of each month (except August); see and listen to what we do. You may like to join us and make a difference. Our contact details are easy to find.

Chappel Parish Council have a website www.chappel.org and a Facebook Page. Keep in touch with us. If you have an idea or comment we would like to hear from you.

Sue Chamley Chairman – Chappel Parish Council

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CHAPPEL PARISH COUNCIL



Thank you

Chappel Parish Council would like to thank Tony Langley for his 15 years of service as a Parish Councillor. His expertise and knowledge will be very much missed.

There was no contested Election in May for Chappel Parish Council. Your elected Councillors are Susan Chamley (Chairman), Peter Neubauer (Vice-Chairman), Amber Cox, Nick Ingram & Patrick Dent.

Parish Council Vacancies

We have two vacancies on the Parish Council, 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.

Allotment Plot Vacancy

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

Parish Field Hedge Damage

You may have noticed the burnt hedge along the A1124. This was due to a car catching fire. The Parish Council will wait to see if the hedge recovers or whether this will need to be replaced.

Sunken Drain on the A1124

The Parish Council are continuing to seek for this drain to be repaired. Cllr Barber assures the Parish Council that this will be completed by July as there has been some delay due to the extensive work that needs to be carried out.

Freighter

The service to Chappel has been cut by Colchester City Council. The nearest freighter service will be Mount Bures on the 12th August Junction of Craig's Ln and Hall Rd, 8am – 8:45am.

Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings are due to be held on the 12th June & 10th July. These meetings will be held in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

If you would like an issue raised, but would rather not attend a Public Meeting, please feel free to email the Parish Clerk.

The Agenda and Approved Minutes of all meetings are placed on the Parish Council Noticeboard and also on our Parish Council website www.chappel.org

If you have something to report and you're not sure who to report it to, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to report the problem to the right authorities on your behalf. Please email the Parish Council with as much detail and if possible

photographs to parishclerk@chappel.org

Contact details: Website: www.chappel.org

Chappel Parish Council <https://www.facebook.com/ChappelPC/>
 Chairman: Sue Chamley

Email: sue.chamley@chappel.org

Clerk: Helen Cook Email: parishclerk@chappel.org
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Co-option for Three Vacancies on Wakes Colne Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to invite applications from members of the public to fill three vacancies within the Council.

We are a vibrant and democratic Council, if you would like to be involved and contribute to your parish please apply in the first instance for an application form to the following: -

Mrs Diane Jacob, Wakes Colne Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, 5 Crocklands, Greenstead Green, Halstead, Essex, CO9 1QY

e-mail parishclerk@wakescolne.org

Telephone 07508787869

Co-option policy available on the Parish Council website www.wakescolne.org
Requirements to apply:

- be a UK or commonwealth citizen, or;
- be a citizen of the Republic or Ireland, or;
- be a citizen of another Member state of the Union;
- be at least 18 years old.

To be eligible for a particular parish, you must:

- be an elector of the parish, or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish, or;
- during the previous 12 months, have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work), or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary

Plant and Seed Swap CLOSURE (May 2023)

With immediate effect due to vandalism and damage and lack of ongoing support with plant swapping. At the May 2023 Annual Meeting it was decided that this would be discontinued.

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