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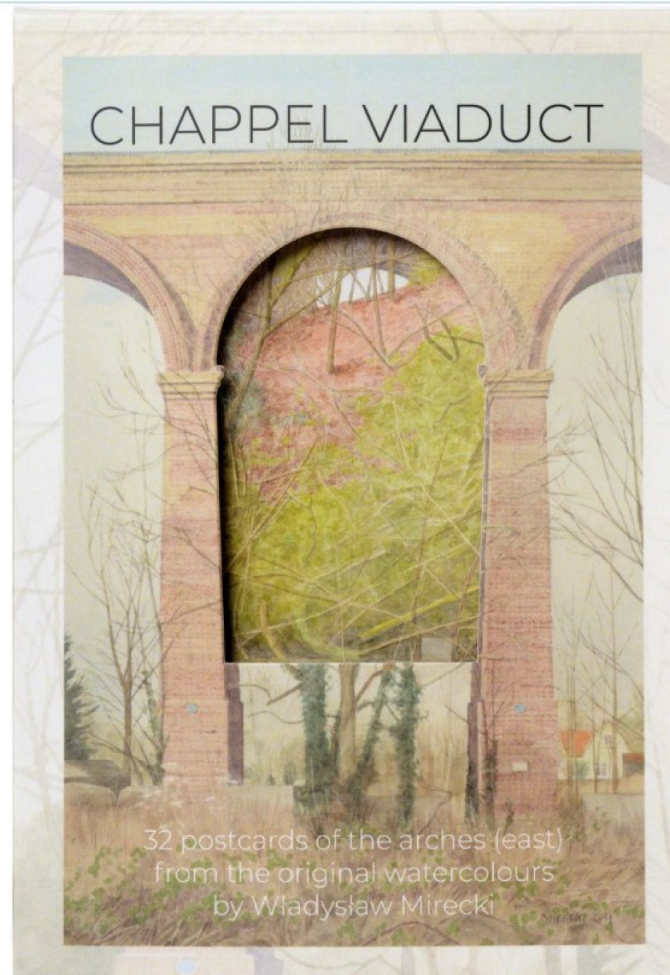
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The Chappel & Wakes Colne

Village Reporter

January and February 2022 Issue no. 110

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



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CHAPPEL VIADUCT ARCHES
Postcards by
Władysław Mirecki
See page 12 for details

United Reformed Church
Celebrates their 50th
Anniversary this year.
See page 4

Open Gardens is Back
Sunday 12th June
See Page 7

Photograph by Steve Bennett

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 & April 2022 issue - Friday 18th February 2022



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LOCAL INFORMATION

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Bures Surgery: Appointments 01787 227529
Borough Councillor: Peter Chillingworth 01206 240230
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 Harris Secretary 01787 222722
Chappel URC: Rev. Kenneth N Forbes 01206 547920
Wakes Colne Post Office: 01787 222449
National Rail Enquiries: 03457 4849 50
Citizens Advice Bureau: 0800 144 8848
Childline: 0800 1111
Samaritans: 116 123
Chappel Parish Council: Clerk: Ms. Helen Cook 01206 589095
Chappel Website: www.chappel.org
Chappel Chairperson: Cllr. Sue Chamley sue.chamley@chappel.org
Wakes Colne Parish Council: Clerk: Ms. Diane Jacob 07508787869
Wakes Colne Chairperson: Cllr. Monica Taylor
Wakes Colne Website: www.wakescolne.org
East Anglian Railway Museum: Peter Martin 01206 242524
Royal British Legion (Ladies): Val Sayer 01206 240328
Women's Institute: Neris Roberts 01787 223855
Village Hall: Francesca Mead francescamead@live.com
Village Hall Bookings Clerk: Christine Underwood 0794 9510523

THANK YOU

On behalf of the VR editing team we would like to thank all those who have sent in local articles and news over the past year. They are always very interesting and make the magazine a good read. Please continue to send in anything you would like to share with us.

Thank you also to our advertisers who pay for the magazine to be printed. Without them we wouldn't be able to share the good news. A special thank you to our biggest stars of the villagers are the wonderful volunteer's who deliver over 500 copies of the magazine to us all.

The VR editing team would like to wish you all a Happy New Year

VILLAGE REPORTER WEBSITE

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

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

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C&WC CSW

On behalf of the small C&WC CSW team of volunteers I would like to welcome Mary Mclean who recently joined us. Thanks Mary, very much appreciated.

Inclement weather and illness has stopped some CSW shifts from going ahead. Since re-commencing shifts following lockdown, 25 shifts of circa one hour each shift – resulting in 378 vehicles travelling 36mph to 39mph and 62 travelling above 40mph have been reported to Essex Police for action.

INFO INTO GRAPHICS

	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
People killed in traffic collisions	6	7	4	4	2	5
Serious injuries	55	80	61	52	5	51
Mobile 'phone offences	58	46	50	45	33	28
Drink drive arrests	142	140	110	121	81	113
Drug drive arrests	257	156	146	130	199	135
Seat belt offences	798	512	450	429	405	319
Vehicles seized, no insurance	331	307	325	369	362	265
Careless driving offences	201	116	103	161	112	94
Roads policing arrests	235	165	114	80	118	160
Road safety education courses	4592	4724	6649	6240	6230	5879
C.S.W. Warning Letters (new)						
Extra eyes submission				102	93	95

2020

JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
6	7	4	4	2	5
55	80	61	52	5	51
58	46	50	45	33	28
142	140	110	121	81	113
257	156	146	130	199	135
798	512	450	429	405	319
331	307	325	369	362	265
201	116	103	161	112	94
235	165	114	80	118	160
4592	4724	6649	6240	6230	5879
			102	93	95

2021

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2	1	2	5	2	2	3	6	5	6	3	
47	34	47	50	61	60	80	68	65	68	95	
25	30	44	42	38	34	44	31	39	41	37	
85	63	67	125	139	118	128	131	114	136	133	
131	114	124	102	72	77	71	71	72	70	77	
254	257	162	139	139	216	316	220	236	235	225	
359	310	363	313	286	257	276	254	233	274	278	
225	102	137	105	182	341	263	129	124	96	83	
131	152	117	128	142	127	104	137	158	119	129	
5842	5424	5107	4128	4875	5624	6764	6829	6487	7058	9069	
								1956	1814	1317	
164	161	180	103	235	225	262	292	283	225	228	

The C&WC CSW team would like to wish all residents a **very HAPPY NEW YEAR.**
Keep safe everyone and please don't speed. *Patrick Dent*

The Mobile Library visits at Swan Grove, Chappel

Every 3 weeks. Day of visit: Tuesday Time of visit: 1.45pm to 2.15pm Next visit dates: 4th & 25th January, 15th February, 8th & 29th March 2022

BRITISH LEGION It was lovely to see those who attended the Remembrance Service on the Green on 14th November. Any queries please contact Val Sayer on 01206 240328

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WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairwoman's Report

As I write, pre-Xmas 2021, the Omicron virus is spreading rapidly, and it looks likely that further restrictions will be re-introduced. These not only impact on the way we can live our lives but also on the council's ability to get things done in Wakes Colne. We keep trying!

At last, there is some better news on several fronts. In early December the much-needed pavement clearance, first reported three years ago, from the Village Hall to Wakes Colne Church, was finally and efficiently undertaken over three days by approved contractors, who had to install traffic lights for safe working. This cost WCPC £2,400, for which Cllr. Barber, our County Councillor, was able to obtain a refund from Essex County Council (ECC) of £1800, as in the past Highways had undertaken the job. We hope that residents who frequently use the footway can now walk more safely on a wider width pavement.

However, we all know that there is speeding above 30mph through the village on the A1124 and along Station Rd. The latest speed survey has given results in excess of the technical limit so we are waiting to see if this will be enough to help secure some funding for the VAS which WCPC has already decided to purchase. When we receive permission from Highways this will be permanently located near the village hall. We are also awaiting further developments on traffic calming in Station Rd, which is still being considered by Highways.

Progress has been made with flooding prevention barriers following a collaborative initiative by our Ward Councillor, Cllr. Chillingworth, and Wakes Colne and Chappel Parish Councils in consultation with Chris Eaton at the PO and shop. After consideration of various options, WCPC has purchased nine portable modules and a connection unit which, when deployed from the edge of the shop corner to the curtilage of the pavement, should offer an adequate defence against rising flood waters. The intention is that this year's locality budget, available to Cllr. Chillingworth from Colchester Borough Council, will fund the cost of around £1600. The flood defences are being supplied to the shop/PO for as long as it remains a community asset.

Another work in progress is installation of 14 replacement solar lights which are not functioning along Station Approach. This is being funded by The Community Rail Partnership, through the good offices of Cllr. Barber. It will be beneficial to all rail users during the dark winter mornings and evenings.

The usual council business includes planning applications, ongoing major highways issues, also signage, applications for planters near the bus shelters, progress on a second defibrillator, footpath maintenance and maintaining the telephone book exchanges. We have a small group of volunteers and councillors which tries to meet monthly to keep footpaths clear; please join us. There is also still a vacancy for another councillor. Please contact the Clerk:

parishclerk@wakescolne.org, or via the website <https://e-voice.org.uk/wakescolne/> if you are interested or have any comments.

Thanks to all who help in whatever way to make Wakes Colne a better place to live. Mandy Sexton has been awarded The Wakes Colne Award for 2021 for her services over many years in editing and producing the Village Reporter and for chairing the Village Hall Committee. We hope the award will be able to be presented in person at the next WCPC meeting on 12th January in the Village Hall. Let's hope that, despite the latest variant of the virus, 2022 will turn out to be a better year than 2021. WCPC wishes you all good health and wellbeing throughout the year.

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



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Secretary: Richard Harris Tel. 01787 222722 Email:

richard.harris55@hotmail.co.uk

PCC Member – Christine Maskell Tel: 01206 241261 Email: lbriar@aol.com

Dear Readers

At every twist and turn of our daily tussles with work and the 'stuff' of our lives we are faced with requirements to complete risk assessments. Try running a school, a Scout or Brownie troop, a shop, a factory, a farm, an office or a church; insurers will not sign off your policy until the necessary reviews and forms have been completed. Of course there is valuable, worthy intention behind such assessments. After all, what more creditable symbol could there be of a civilised state than adherence to regulations designed to protect the health and safety of employees and the general populous?

As Christians, we strive, through regular collective prayer, to remind ourselves, concisely, of our responsibilities in our daily lives and in our relationships to act with caution, forethought and consideration. For hundreds of years we addressed this ambition memorably each time we recited the general Confession from the Book of Common Prayer: *'We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.'* The modern wording from the book of Common Worship updates this confession to: *'...we have sinned in thought, word and deed.'* incorporating in addition *'...we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.'* Bundle these concise lessons, surely the foundation of all good manners and behavioural example, and we begin to lay for ourselves and our children a path of care and kindness for life; a risk assessment for living as God would like us to live.

If you are inclined to agree, perhaps take time this year to read the New Testament. With startling clarity you will be rewarded, from Jesus' teachings, with many hopeful reasons to believe and to learn to love God and trust His Son, Jesus Christ, whose lessons in love and care for others have never been more relevant to humankind as we face the inescapable and daunting challenges of the modern world.

Richard Harris for PCC

Epiphany

Christmas Day has now passed, and we enter into a New Year, 2022. But the story of the Nativity is far from over. The baby Jesus has been born, but the Magi (the Three Kings, or the Three Wise Men) are still travelling towards Bethlehem, intending to bring gifts and worship the new born king. The day they are recorded as having arrived at the stable is called Epiphany, and this occurs on January 6th. This Christian festival is still observed as an important day in the Church year. It is also known as The Three Kings' Day and in some traditions it is celebrated as Little Christmas. The three important dignitaries realised that a greater than themselves had arrived on earth and that the baby named Jesus would change the world forever.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year for 2022.
Christine Maskell

Parish of Wakes Colne and Chappel Services for January and February 2022

Sunday 9 January 2022 10 am – Great Tey –
The Baptism of Christ – Epiphany 1
Benefice HC Service – led by visiting clergy

Sunday 16 January 2022 Great Tey –
Epiphany 2 Morning Worship – led by PCC

Sunday 23 January 2022 10 am – Chappel –
Epiphany 3
Benefice HC Service - led by visiting clergy

Sunday 30 January 2022 – There will be no services in the Benefice

Sunday 6 February 2022 10 am – Chappel –
4th Sunday before Lent Morning Service –
led by PCC
10 am Little Tey – Morning Worship – led by PCC

Sunday 13 February 2022 10 am – Little Tey –
3rd Sunday before Lent
Benefice HC Service - led by visiting clergy

Sunday 20 February 2022 10 am – Great Tey –
2nd Sunday before Lent
Morning Service led by PCC

Sunday 27 February 2022 10 am – Chappel –
Sunday before Lent
Benefice HC Service - led by visiting clergy
6:30 pm – Little Tey Church – Evensong – led by PCC





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



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

The Minister writes . . .

HERE I sit in my untidy little study, trying to think of something to write for the first magazine of 2022 – and it's not even Christmas 2021 yet! Such is the world of publishing deadlines.

And my little study is very untidy. There are bits of paper with sermons, poems, notes and scribbles, envelopes with telephone numbers jotted on them with no names attached, books that I've been using in the preparation of the last few

weeks of worship, folders, old ink cartridges, pens with no caps and caps with no pens.

I'm reminded of the Scottish New Year tradition of 'reddin' oot' or clearing out, a practice based on the idea that we should begin each new year with a clean house, free of all the clutter that has accumulated over the last twelve months. It's like giving ourselves a fresh start at the beginning of each year, unburdened

by all the unwanted baggage of the old. It seems like a good idea. Maybe I should just scoop up the whole lot into a white plastic bag before the next paper-recycling day.

Perhaps indeed, it would do us all good to do a bit of 'reddin' oot'. If not literally, then in our minds and hearts. This past year has been difficult for us all; the Covid pandemic has turned our world upside-down and brought anxiety and the grief of loss to many. But as we reflect on the highs and lows of last year, we remember that New Year brings the opportunity of a fresh start, a chance for 'reddin' oot': leaving behind the trauma of last year and embarking on 2022 with fresh hope and renewed vision. The Christian faith speaks of such renewal and hope. It reminds us that at any time, not just New Year, there is the opportunity to 'redd' our lives, to make things new, to move on from darkness into light. Jesus says 'follow me', but never promises an easy journey. Maybe travelling light, without too much baggage from the past, makes the journey that little bit easier.

Ken

The United Reformed Church Celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2022

It was in 1972 that a Scheme of Union was drawn up and initiated between the former Presbyterian Church of England and the majority of churches within the Congregational Church in England and Wales. At the time, one Member of Parliament described this merger as 'one of the most historic measures in the history of the Christian Churches in this country'.

The URC is nonconformist, and sets us within the stream of a reformed tradition which goes back some 500 years. It is part of a worldwide family of Reformed Churches, a group of more than 70 million Christians. You can find out more by visiting www.urc.org.uk

Monthly mid-week activities

All are welcome to join with us

First Wednesday 10.30am
Coffee and Chat informal, no charge
Third Thursday 10.00am
Bible Study and Discussion

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SECRETARY: Anthony R Percival
Peace Villa, Colchester Road, Chappel, Colchester,
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Although it is the elderly that are the most likely victims of these types of crime, that is not always the case, besides if you have elderly relatives or friends you may wish to pass on this advice. You may also have elderly or vulnerable neighbours that you can help protect by watching out for suspicious activity.

It's handy to have list with telephone numbers of your water, gas, electricity, telephone etc suppliers by the phone should you need to make contact at any time. If you have a caller **STOP** - are you expecting anyone, is the back door locked, sometimes while you are at front door someone will slip in the back. **Have a look out of a window** by the front door and if possible, speak to them first from that window or through the closed door. If you are on your own pretend you are not by calling over your shoulder that you will answer the door. There is no longer a "Water Board or Electricity Board" they now have particular company names so if this is stated that should "ring alarm bells" - **CHAIN** put the door chain on before you open the door if you are opening it at all to them: **CHECK** ask for an ID card, if in doubt ring a telephone number from your relevant correspondence from that company to verify the identity (not a telephone number from their ID card as it may be false) , **IF IN DOUBT KEEP THEM OUT** and call the police on 999 or if you have a carer alarm activate it and speak to your control room. If you do let someone in your home always make sure **you close the door behind them** that way no one else can get in while you are busy with your visitor.

With most of the utility companies you can now set up a password with them so that when one of their employees calls you can verify that they are genuine, speak to your relevant company.

Rogue traders may call at your door claiming to be qualified tradespeople offering to do work on your home. These people may claim you need services like repairs to your roof, lawn or fences, your driveways power washed or repaired or replaced, garden services, or waste clearance. They may seem friendly and persuasive but too often they target vulnerable, elderly people.

A genuine trader won't:

* call without an appointment.

* ask you to go to a bank to withdraw cash or make a money transfer.

* offer to take you to the bank to withdraw cash for payment.

insist that you make a decision about work they're offering to do on the spot.

* bully or scare you into doing the work.

It's your doorstep so you can choose if you want work carried out. If you do think you need some work doing:

Ask a friend for a recommended trader or contact a Trading Standards 'Buy with Confidence' accredited trader www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk .

* Get a number of quotes.

* Get a written estimate detailing exactly what work will be carried out, how much it will cost and what the terms of payment are.

Take your time to make sure you're happy with what you're undertaking – ask a trusted friend/relative for advice.

Remember if you believe a crime is being committed please dial 999, otherwise dial 101 or report it online or by the 'Live Chat' at www.essex.police.uk .

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Nature notes December 2021

There is a feast of birds around at the moment, and I feel I’ve covered only half of what’s on the table. Almost daily I read the what’s been seen in Essex page on the internet and the number of birds being found around here this December has been extraordinary.

Starting at home. The feeders are being emptied (and filled) daily. The most numerous visitor is Goldfinch, and it’s not unusual to have 15 of them fighting for a place on the 3 feeders. Greenfinches are less numerous, maybe 4 or 6 at most at ant one time. These 2 eat and spill the seed while they cling on. By contrast, Great and Blue and an occasional Coal Tit take a seed quickly and fly off to eat it somewhere less exposed - we do have a Sparrowhawk around.

The uncommon guest has been a Brambling, which stayed for just two minutes. Brambling is a bird of the European north, a winter migrant here, the size and shape of a Chaffinch. Like Chaffinch, it prefers to feed on the ground and not on the feeders. It’s much more colourful than Chaffinch, with a key difference is the white rump on both sexes. This one was a female, with orange tints on the chest, while the male has much more and brighter orange on it. If you see a colourful Chaffinch with a prominent white back, it’s a Brambling, and a very nice sighting too.

Walking around, I’ve seen a large flock of Redwings near the Village Hall, and after the heavy rain in mid-December, the flooded meadow opposite it attracted 2 Little Egrets. Buzzards are common overhead, a Sparrowhawk zips through the garden regularly, and a Barn Owl came over the house one late afternoon.

A little further afield, Abberton is a like a giant avian magnet at this time of the year. Its expanses are full of ducks at the moment, and every British wintering duck I can think of is there apart from a few sea ducks such as Eider. On a misty grey damp day in late December, in 10 minutes on the causeway I saw Mallard, Teal, Tufted Duck, and Pochar in great numbers, Shoveler, Goldeneye, Goosander and Wigeon in large numbers, and a handful of Scaup. Two Smew, both females, have also just turned up now.

On this occasion, I missed the Long-tailed Duck, the divers and the Black-necked Grebe, but I did see a Red-necked Grebe. I failed to find the family of Whooper Swans reported sitting in a field at Copford, but did see a pair of the smaller Bewick Swans and a handful of Cattle Egrets just south of the reservoir. A late November trip to the wonderful RHS Hyde Hall just south of Chelmsford meant a quick visit to the nearby Hanningfield reservoir was on, and the Slavonian Grebe reported from there was swimming around and diving just yards from the causeway road.

Even further afield was a trip to North Norfolk, planned long ago and maybe just squeezed in before the travel shutters come down again. Pink-footed Geese coming into roost at Holkham at dusk in their hundreds is special sight. At Cley there were Marsh Harriers and a Bittern, at Holkham Shore Larks and Sanderlings. The trip was especially memorable for a new bird for me. A rarity migrant from Eastern Europe, an off-course Barred Warbler, had been seen in a lane near where we stayed. I walked over one late afternoon and found 10 birdwatchers spread out looking up at the patches of ivy which this bird seemed to favour. A real twitch was on.

But after half an hour things looked poor; it was getting gloomy, the rain was just beginning and birdwatchers were drifting off. There were four of us left, and I said to myself 10 more minutes. Then a muffled shout, one of them had seen it. There it was, a pale grey bird, huge for a warbler. It dipped into and out of the ivy, and then flew across the lane into bare tree branches above our heads. Cameras with big lenses clicked. As we say in the trade, it “showed well”, and there was that “lifer” for me. Happiness all round, and a great end to a very difficult year.

A happy and better new year to you all
Tony Witcher

CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE WOMENS INSTITUTE

It does seem an age ago when we had our October meeting. What a highly entertaining evening we had with two wives of army officers who came to tell us about their lives as military wives. The ladies took it in turns to relate their adventures from marriage to the present day. Sue began with her first posting in Hanover in 1982 when she was first married, her husband was in the Intelligence Corps . She filled us in with all sorts of interesting details of what was expected of you when married to an officer – you really have to follow the rules and have to be ready to move anywhere at short notice which means you have very few personal possessions as most things are provided. Both wives said how difficult it was when you became a mother and the children had to go to school. Each of them sent their children to boarding school when they reached eleven years old as this gave them a stable education. Sue’s best friend Kate is married to a serving officer in the Parachute Corps. It was both an hilarious and also touching account of her life with many ups and downs. Both ladies enjoyed their postings abroad being sent to Germany, Hong Kong, Cyprus, Pakistan and America as well as round the UK. Kate and Sue told us the way their lives were affected when conflicts arise like Saddam Hussein, Iraq and Pakistan. They said it is the hardest thing to watch news reports and think that your husband is there somewhere and perhaps you might see him at work – it was rather thought provoking for those of us who have not experienced any connection with a military life in our time.

November’s meeting was a complete contrast as there was a somewhat oriental atmosphere to our evening when we had Glynis – a Tai Chi instructor to demonstrate her art. First of all Glynis began by telling us some of the history of Tai Chi which goes back hundreds of years. We then joined in with some of the more simple moves which proved to be most relaxing – the art of deep beathing and energy flow through the body – it really was very focused as you need to concentrate your thoughts. Following on Glynis then gave us a demonstration of some of the more complicated moves complete with a Samurai sword – it was brilliant!

Sadly our usual Christmas gatherings were cancelled but hopefully we can do something in the New Year if things improve. We have ended another year with a very sad goodbye to our much loved member, Anne Graham, who passed away in November. We will all miss her presence in more ways than one – really lovely lady with always a kind understanding word.

The January meeting will be on the 19th in the village hall at 7.30 when we will have a Hands on Craft meeting. The third Wednesday in February will be Re-wilding Jordans Farm and the third Wednesday in March will be All about Willows with Deborah Hart – all great and all welcome.

Finally HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL THE LADIES OF CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE WI



Need some help around the house or garden?

From regular gardening to that indoor job you never get around to, I could be what you’re looking for. With skills in house and garden maintenance.

Call or text me for a chat about your needs.

Graham King
T: 07923 445128



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
Anne Graham
30 January 1940 - 23 October 2021

Mums’ early years are not very well documented. Born in 1940, she did have tales to tell of wartime memories, doodlebugs overhead, growing up on the outskirts of London as she did. At primary school she was a disruptive pupil, and went on to be thrown out of three brownie packs, explaining that she didn’t find sitting in a corner tying knots very entertaining. The years progressed, until at the age of 15, and with a growing love of horses, she noticed a fella who would ride around the field behind her family home on a horse. The son of the local Irish tenant farmer/bus driver. A few years her senior, he obviously caught her eye, and after a few years of courtship, and her gaining her teaching qualifications and some time in schools, she married Dad (Lionel) in August 1963. I was born in Stirling, Scotland the following year, and my sister Jane a couple of years later. We moved to North Essex in 1968, into a wreck of a house up Oak road, and Mum decided that living in a house with no floors, and wires hanging from the beams was not enough of a challenge. She resumed her teaching career, cycling to Kelvedon daily, until dad decided she might like a car. And so began her love of driving clocking up many miles a year. Up until a month before she died, she was still driving all over the country, visiting her friends in Scotland, Birmingham and Wales, dropping her cousin Joan back into London after she came to visit. No sat nav, just a few notes on the passenger seat. For years, she would help us with the kid’s school run, and I was never the slightest bit worried for the children’s safety. As a child myself, I remember we had a famously blind postman, who drove a Mini Van. We met him in the lane one morning, and mum, cool as a cucumber turned to us in the back seat with no seatbelts and said, ‘get down behind the front seats, he’s going to hit us!’ which we did, and he did. One Sunday evening, at ten PM, she rang me on her mobile to say she had a problem. Returning from a late-night dog walk with Olive, she stopped on the hill not far from her bungalow. There was a sheep in the road, so, like any 80yr old lady with a dodgy leg, she decided to return said sheep to its field. She got out, leaving the engine running and shut the door, and Olive, who always had free run of the interior, spotted the sheep, went ballistic, and hit the central locking. This was one evening that she had returned from Wales, and consequently, the spare keys for the car, which she would leave in the accommodation while she was away, were still in the car. I tried, but failed to break in. So, after I’d told the AA a white lie about my travel arrangements with her, we waited in my pick up on her drive until the AA came along. Olive, quite comfortably asleep on the front seat of mum’s car, engine running, heating on. As children, Jane and I had the privilege of helping keep horses, Cats, Dogs, Pigs, Cows, and Budgies, and all had to be tended to before mum went off to work teaching, and we went to school. This required enormous amounts of energy and commitment, both of which she had in spades. Her love of horses in particular was the strongest, and for as long as I can remember she has been a level 5 dressage judge, traveling all over the country to judge and encourage those who enthuse about the discipline. Again, we’ve had loads of letters commenting on her fair and wise words, and from one writer, who said mum got out of her car when the competitor started the test, to ask if they could stop as the horse was lame. Mum suggested the lady might seek the advice of a vet. As it turned out, the lady riding the horse, was, you’ve guessed it, a vet.

Mum loved her gardening. Mum’s vision over our years at Priory house helped transform the garden from a green rectangle into a lovely place, with flower beds, colourful trees and shrubs and Dads Pond. She moved twice after dad died and took his fish with her, building a pond when needed. They are still at the bungalow now some twenty years later. She visited many gardens, but there was one place in particular that she adored. Beth Chattos garden, was up there with Wales as her favourite place to be. She visited many times for over seventeen years before Dad died, and has been a regular volunteer there for the past 6 years. There have been numerous cards and letters since she died from former pupils and parents, praising her natural ability to get the best out of both. One letter mentioned her habit of letting the school Budgie sit in her hair while taking the lesson, and one occasion where she was reading the tale of the three little pigs so enthusiastically, that when it came to the huff and puff bit, she blew her teeth across the classroom. She taught at several schools, was on the board of governors here in Chappel, and was enormously respected, being offered the deputy head job at one. I think she thought that position would result in her being more distant from her pupils, so she declined. She really did understand children, and every comment and letter from former pupils, parents and colleagues we’ve had, mentions her patience and kindness and wisdom. She successfully managed to integrate parenting into her busy schedule, taking Jane and I all over the country to broaden our horizons. But I think she enjoyed being a granny best of all. GA, as she was referred to, will be remembered very fondly by all four grandchildren. She had the confidence of them all, and was immensely proud of all they have achieved. Mum really loved her singing, travelling all over the place, but in particular to Snape Maltings which she loved. She was a member of the Royal Choral Society aged 18, and went on to be a member of numerous others including the BBC Scottish Choral Society, and a very long-time member of Essex University Choir. She taught countless children to play the piano, taking them through exams, as well as recorder at Chappel school. Mum had a more than a few visits to Hospital over the years, some planned, some not. I remember her sustaining a really nasty hand injury from a leading rope on a horse. She spent a lot of time with horses and, as anyone who has done this knows, they can be dangerous things. Some of you will well remember the awful accident she had several years ago that resulted in her nearly loosing her leg. Her determination to recover her was an inspiration to many. Her admiration for the service she received, led to her working one day a week at the League of Friends shop in Colchester General Hospital right up until the Covid outbreak. She could knit anything, while watching the telly and talking on the phone at the same time. A dark art as far as I’m concerned. Our house has several examples of her skills, and she gave me a jumper back in June for my birthday. I quite like it!! She had quite an eye for landscape art, and was pretty good at it too, but was equally enthusiastic painting the house, inside or out, windows and walls. Mum really loved to walk. She wore out a lot of boots, sticks, and several dogs! During the last year or so I went with her a few times during lockdown, and I could never believe the pace and distance that she managed. Until quite recently, she was very disappointed if she didn’t hit her 10.000 step daily target, and would walk around the garden late at night if it helped get her to that target. Apart from the huge milage every year in this country, she did travel abroad a bit too. Finland, Australia, France, Spain, Portugal, America, and a couple of cruises with her good friend Marion. I used to call them Thelma and Louise because they were always off somewhere causing mischief. To summarise she was a wonderful person, who never wasted a minute, and gave a lot more to others than I ever truly realised.

Mark Graham

Bee Lines



I will begin by wishing all (both?) of my readers a very happy and prosperous new year. Of course, as I write, it is the week before Christmas, and we still have little idea as to how or whether we will be able to celebrate the festive season. Hopefully it all went well for you, but I am beginning to think that I have had enough of Covid for the time being, and long for the opportunity to return to a more normal lifestyle.

Nature, of course, continues along its merry way, totally oblivious of the trials of mankind. December has seen some unseasonably warm weather, warm enough to encourage my bees to venture outside the hive on occasion. There is not much for them to forage on at this time of year, but they will leave the hive when conditions allow in order to fetch water and for comfort breaks. Presumably they also check to make sure no late (or should that be early) flowering plants are giving off pollen or nectar.

Whilst it is encouraging to see the bees flying, if only for reassurance that there is still life in the hives, their flights will consume their food stores more quickly, and they may need extra feed in the new year.

Looking out of my window last week, I was amazed to see a red butterfly flit past, probably a tortoiseshell or painted lady. It flew away quickly before I could get a good view of it. I am not sure whether butterflies can wake up from hibernation and go back to sleep again when the weather grows colder. Mammals certainly can, as we know from squirrels, bears hedgehogs and so on. I am less sure about insects like butterflies or wasps. Honeybees do not hibernate as such, so they should be ok, but I worry for the future health of my premature butterfly.

Now on the subject of wasps, a common question I am asked is what to do with a nest of wasps or bees in the vicinity of our houses. My advice is always the same. Honey bees should always be removed if possible, but can be left alone in a barn or outbuilding if they are not causing bother, but should be destroyed by a licenced pest controller if inside the walls of a dwelling, as a last resort, as the bees can cause damage to the fabric of the building.

Wasps and bumble bees are a different matter entirely. My tendency is to leave them alone if they are not causing a nuisance as they will die off in late autumn and do not occupy old nests in future years. I appreciate that it is often difficult to ignore a nest once you know it is there. We all have an inbuilt suspicion, often leading to fear of, crawling or flying insects. I am scared of spiders for example, but given my love of bees, I really cannot explain this difference, but generally, if you ignore the wasps, they will ignore you. (I am told that the same advice applies to spiders but I cannot bring myself to believe so. Fortunately, Mrs Drone

has no such fear, and can always be relied upon to remove the spiders safely and humanely and release them outside). To illustrate this point, a recent discovery in my loft appears below.



This is a wasp's nest I believe, although at 53 cms in diameter it is by far the largest one I have seen. It must have

produced many thousands of wasps. This last year was a poor year for wasps but the two previous years provided better conditions, and wasps proliferated accordingly. I therefore conclude that my nest, which is made of chewed up wood bark often likened to paper, dates from either 2019 or 2020.

So this amazing structure was constructed by the progeny of a single queen wasp, produced many thousands of workers, followed by several hundred new queens, and was finally deserted by its occupants, all within a single season; a period of perhaps seven months or so maximum. All this took place within the attic of my house, perhaps six feet above my head, **and I had no idea at all that they were there.** Furthermore, neither myself, any family member or visitor to the house or garden, were stung by a wasp during this period. My opinion remains the same, leave them alone if you possibly can, and if you feel you have to remove them, consult a licenced pest controller before you do so.

I remain in total awe of the world around us. Long may it continue. Including the spiders!

Your bee correspondent, The Old Drone

Combatting the Climate Crisis in Chappel and Wakes Colne

Happy New Year! Our local eco news is that Cherry McKean, who runs the Terracycle recycling centre in Earls Colne, will be opening a refill store in the old dental technician's building, next to the Castle pub in Earl's Colne High Street, with Rachel Sprunt in January or February, date dependent on solicitors and builders, so save your old containers if you'd like to shop local and cut down on your plastic waste.

One of the best ways to both cut your carbon footprint and be healthier, is to eat more vegetables and less meat and dairy, so if you are trying Veganuary this January you might like some new recipes. Amongst our favourites are baked potatoes with chilli beans, and Russian Vegetable, aka Sputnik, soup, which is remarkably tasty for something with such basic, inexpensive ingredients. Recipes below, with both any surplus can be frozen for another day.

In February, as part of the Climate Coalition's Show the Love campaign, we are delighted to welcome Alex Stephenson, of Jordan's Farm, Middle Green, to come and talk to our WI about her rewilding project. We hope to be in the village hall from 7.30pm on Wednesday 16th February, Covid permitting, but if we are in another lockdown we will hold the meeting on Zoom. If interested please email me.

Our other Show the Love event will be a climate crisis zoom with our MP, Sir Bernard Jenkin. As Bernard told us in September that he would be "devoting his next years in politics to the climate crisis" this will be great opportunity to ask what he has achieved so far. Date to be confirmed as I write this, but likely to be either the evening of Thursday 10th February, or during the day on Friday 11th. It will be advertised on Eventbrite as Show the Love, but if you can't find it there please email me, address below. We have 2 speakers confirmed already, Max Wakefield of WeArePossible, who has some great ideas such as solar powered trains, and Clementine Cowton of Octoenergy, who will talk about air source heat pumps (ASHP). That will be very interesting as in April there will be new Government grants of £5,000 available towards having an ASHP installed. However, if you live in a big house, you might want to get your skates on as the £5,000 grant will replace the Renewable Heat Incentive, which is up to about £12,000 paid back to you over seven years, and that scheme finishes at the end of March.

Chilli Beans

Teaspoon olive oil
1 large onion, chopped
1 tin kidney beans
1 tin butter beans
2 tins baked beans
1 tin tomatoes
1 tablespoon golden syrup
Half teaspoon oregano
Pinch paprika
Teaspoon chilli powder
Fry the onion till soft, add all other ingredients. Simmer for 20 minutes, serve on top of split baked potato. Serves 6-8

Sputnik soup

1oz butter, or a little olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
225g potatoes, peeled and chopped into 1cm squares
110g parsnips, chopped (new parsnips don't need to be peeled)
110g carrots, chopped (new carrots don't need to be peeled)
50g cabbage, finely sliced. Or use sprouts, or the green tops of leeks, or inner cauliflower leaves
2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley, or 1 tablespoon dried parsley
Half teaspoon dried mixed herbs
Pinch ground nutmeg
1.2 litres vegetable stock
Optional grated cheese
Fry the vegetables in a covered pan for 10 minutes, add the herbs and stock, simmer for 30 minutes. Serve sprinkled with your favourite bread and grated cheese if liked. Serves 6.

Jill Bruce, Climate Ambassador, Chappel and Wakes Colne WI
Email jillbruce321@gmail.com

Chappel C of E Primary School

I am writing this at the start of the Christmas holidays and it is a chance to reflect on the past term and year. I think 2021 has been a year like no other, with lockdowns and restrictions and a gradual return to normal. It has certainly kept us on our toes!

We had a small peak of Covid-19 cases about three weeks ago at Chappel, and fortunately this passed and we ended the term Covid free. This was a real blessing compared to last year. We were able to hold many of the traditional events which make Chappel such a lovely place to work.

We had a wonderful Christmas tree donated by Poplar Nurseries, which was lit up for the children's delight on the 1st December. Unfortunately we were unable to have our Christmas Fayre due to high numbers of Covid cases, however the children had all made Christmas decorations which we were able to sell to parents and families. The children also contributed to a whole school tea towel which was very popular.

Our KS1 children performed "Hey Ewe" to smaller than normal audiences to allow for some spacing out in the hall. Considering the children had not been able to perform on such a scale since the Year 2 children were in Reception, they did a remarkable job. There was some wonderful singing and acting, and the best dancing angels I have seen in a long time.

We all enjoyed Christmas dinner, with Mrs Bartholomew cooking for both schools and producing over 200 dinners. It was lovely to all sit down together in each school and eat the delicious food. We even pulled Christmas crackers and shared the jokes and wore the hats.

Father Christmas decided the children had all been very good this year and he visited our Christmas party and gave every child a gift (thank you to Friends of Chappel for helping Father Christmas with this). The children enjoyed games and a lovely party tea.

KS2 performed Carols by Candlelight in the church. The service was beautiful, and the church looked stunning and was wonderfully warm. Thank you to Mrs Maskell for helping to get the church ready for us. This is always one of my highlights of the Christmas celebrations and it lived up to all expectations..



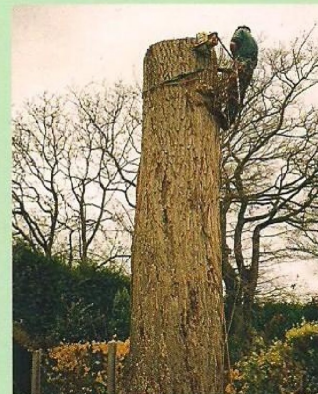
Finally, both schools had a visit to the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford to see the pantomime Beauty and The Beast. It was wonderful to be able to experience live theatre, even if the Beast was a little alarming for some of our younger children. You cannot beat a bit of "Behind you!" to get everyone very excited, and tired out on the coach ride home.

I am writing this not knowing what the new year will hold, will we be back in our bubbles, will we have a partial lockdown? Life in school is never predictable but the pleasure we get from watching our children grow and develop far outweighs all the uncertainty at present.

If you have not yet applied for a place for Reception September 2022, please do make an appointment to come and look round. The closing date for applications is the 15th January 2022.

If you would like to send your child to our lovely school, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Bull in the office for more details on any spaces
Julie Ingram Head teacher

Richard Fordham Tree Surgeons Ltd



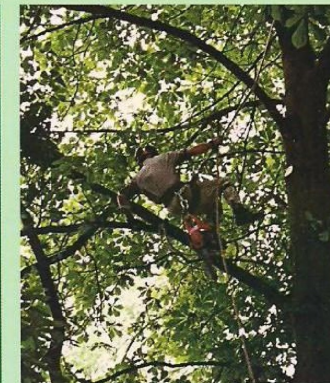
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WE NEED YOU!!!
Great News
Chappel and Wakes Colne
OPEN GARDENS
will be back on Sunday 12th June 2022

but we really cannot do it without you.
If you would like to open your garden to visitors next year, please let us know. Ideally, we would love a variety of gardens, for example:
Large or Small
Formal or Informal
Vegetable plots, environmentally friendly areas, water features, interesting views, children's areas, cottage style.

Maybe you have participated in OPEN GARDENS in previous years....? then we would love to have you back again.

If you have never joined in before, then don't be shy, now's your chance.

Please contact me, Denise Stocker, in any of the following ways to register your interest or just to find out more
07967 000280 or denise.stocker@woodbre.co.uk

Chappel and Wakes Colne OPEN GARDENS 2022 team. All profits go to maintenance of Chappel and Wakes Colne churches