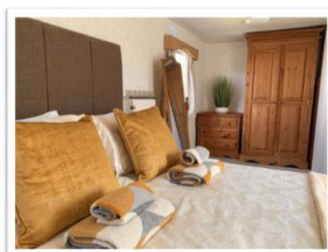


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The Chappel & Wakes Colne

Village Reporter

July and August 2022 Issue no. 113

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



Platinum
Jubilee
Celebrations in
the Villages



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Press date for the September to November 2022 issue - Monday 22nd August 2022



LOCAL INFORMATION

Earls Colne Surgery:	Appointments 01787 222022
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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
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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

CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE VILLAGE HALL

Contacts: Chair: Francesca Mead francescamead@live.com
Bookings: Christine Underwood 07983 242517
underwood1@live.co.uk

Our Village Hall was resoundingly awoken from its long Covid sleep on Sunday, 29th May when Adam and The Rock Choir singers performed a rousing concert of modern rock songs which we all knew so well we just couldn't help but sing and clap along!

It was a marvellous afternoon and my condolences go to any who missed it – especially those residents of our two villages for whom Adam and the Rock Choir performed free of charge and helped to raise £813.20 towards our Village Hall Funds.

We thank you, Adam and all of the Rock Choir, who completely filled our large stage. You were magnificent and we are pleased that our audience, who also filled the Hall to its capacity, expressed their approval so loudly.

We were delighted to welcome some delightful evacuees from the Ukraine, including a dear little girl. Their stories are very sad and we send them our heartfelt good wishes.

Successful events do not happen without a lot of effort. We first thank James and David for marshalling the car park IN THE POURING RAIN. We then thank Cllr. Lewis Barber who opened the event for us.

Thanks are more than due to those, especially Brenda and Valerie Dent, who made sixteen delicious cakes including vegan and gluten free. One lady, who left her purse behind gave a generous donation for its return, and declared that being Celiac, she had never before seen such a selection. She said the Concert was the best she had attended in this area – the good atmosphere and wonderful entertainment ensured that she would return again.

Volunteers worked tirelessly in the kitchen providing refreshments and washing up. Howard marshalled the money at the hatch and Sue Chalmley kindly froze Valerie's cakes in her own freezer, due to insufficient storage space, as well as helping with both refreshments and washing up! Valerie Sayer ran the very successful raffle. Patrick obtained a bottle of 'House of Commons' whisky and other items for the auction. A big, big thank you is due here.

No less than our own village treasure – Chris Eaton – of shop and post office fame, sold tickets for the event, which was sold out! Thank you Chris.

Finally, the biggest THANK YOU is due to Patrick who masterminded the whole event, attending to every detail with great dedication. He and Christine advertised extensively, including an appearance on BBC Radio Essex, prepared the hall beforehand and cleaned up afterwards. Please know that we do not take you for granted, Patrick or Christine.

If this all sounds like a timeless sort of Village Hall event, it is. It takes villagers to make it a success and ensure that village life carries on through the generations. Our Village Hall is a valuable and necessary asset for all to support and enjoy. Look out for further fun events and make sure you get a ticket in time! **FRANCESCA MEAD**

VILLAGE REPORTER NEWS

As of September the Village Reporter will be printed every three months instead of bimonthly. This is due to the steep rise in printing costs. We feel it is important to keep the 12 page, A4 format of the magazine but we would need to charge nearly double for adverts to cover the present printing costs. Having four issues instead of six a year will allow the magazine to continue to share the news in Chappel and Wakes Colne in its usual informative way. Thank you for your support.

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

On 1 June 2022, we were invited to Fire & Police H/Q at Kelvedon to attended a Community Speed Watch Volunteers "Thank You" event. This was made available to all the CSW teams in Essex who volunteer to execute CSW duties in their local areas, and, it was very well attended.

We were given talks, shown various scenarios of incidents et al, from Chief Fire Officer and Jane Gardner, Deputy FP&CC. Those present joined in Q&A sessions. A buffet lunch afterwards enabled us to talk and mingle with CSW volunteers from other areas. It was an enjoyable event, and, a "Thank You". Jane Gardner presented the C&WC CSW team with the "Thank you" certificate.

Our CSW co-ordinator, Patrick has osteoarthritis, which is, unfortunately, getting worse. We are looking for a person, male or female, to join us on our quest to reduce speeding motorists in Chappel and Wakes Colne, thus making our villages safer. Patrick has said that he would like to continue, is quite happy to do all the correspondence, including speaking and liaising with Essex Police, sending in recordings to CSW H/Q for processing; he finds it difficult to stand without being in pain. We are looking for someone who would be prepared to assist us, full online training given, plus Patrick will explain the routines. You can speak with Patrick if you wish, so he can explain the volunteer duties – 01787 220 147.

So, ladies and gentlemen, residents of Wakes Colne and Chappel ... how about joining us so that we can continue with our two villages Community Speed Watch? Thank you.

Brenda and Valerie

BRITISH LEGION There are no meetings arranged at present. Any queries please contact Val Sayer on 01206 240328



Platinum Jubilee

Chappel Parish Council would like to thank the Chappel Millennium Green Trust for lighting the Beacon to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Thursday 2nd June. Around 80 people attended the ceremony.

Saturday Refuge Collection

Colchester Borough Council will be running the Saturday collection in Swan Grove on the 23rd July between 8am – 9.15am. No fridges or freezers, no electrical goods, no items which can be recycled through kerbside collections, please bring green garden waste separately to be composted, this service is provided for small loads and from domestic properties, so you can use this service to dispose of bulky items not normally collected with household waste, no commercial refuse or hazardous waste such as asbestos, liquids, gas bottles and no large loads please. For more information please call 01206 282700

Speed Watch – Volunteers Needed

If you could spare some time, the Speed Watch Team are looking for more volunteers. Please contact the Parish Clerk so we can put you in touch with the co-ordinator Cllr Dent.

Thank you

Chappel Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you Bruce Knights who has decided to step down as a Parish Councillor. We especially thank him for all his assistance on projects that have been carried out within the Village like the Poppy Trail and work round the war memorial to name a few.

We therefore have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, if you would like to find out more, please contact the Parish Clerk or come along to our next meeting.

Parish Council

Our next meetings are due to be held on the 11th July and the 12th September. 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 Tel: 01206589095

North Essex Astronomical Society

We are a friendly society of amateurs of all ages who enjoy the night sky.

We meet at our local Observatory where we do both visual and photographic astronomy, and we have regular monthly talks that are open to all at Henry Dixon Hall in Rivenhall.

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Richard Fordham

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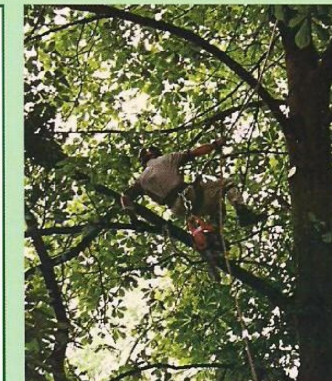
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CO9 1QY
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parishclerk@wakescolne.org

WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairwoman's Report

Wakes Colne has certainly come back to life as a community this summer! What wonderful events – the Rock Choir, the Jubilee Picnic, the Open Gardens and the Abbeygate Concert Band – have been organised, supported, participated in and enjoyed in just a few weeks from late May and mid-June. Thanks to all those who contributed to make much-needed meetings up and new memories as well as raising funds for our churches and the village hall.

Together with Chappel Parish Council, in late May we held our Annual Parish Meeting in the village hall, when we reported on our work during the past year in the parish councils and members of other local organisations came together to talk about what goes on and what is planned. Plenty happening and its good to see some new people joining in and helping out, including new residents from Wakes Hall. We will be distributing our annual report to all residents of Wakes Colne during July/August.



Wakes Colne Parish Council, through Section 106 funding from a local barn conversion, was able to provide four large planters outside the bus shelters at the crossroads and plant them up in patriotic colours before the Jubilee weekend. We also now have water butts behind each bus shelter, so please, if you

have time when you pass, pick up a can and add some water to keep the plants going.

This year's Plant & Seed Swap opening was kindly undertaken by Peter Chillingworth. There were initially a lot of plants which soon disappeared as have those which have been added as top ups by a few people. Please remember to bring plants to Swap as that is the only way it will keep going.

The same goes for the telephone book exchanges. The Lane Rd telephone book exchange in needs books. So please sort out some books and leave there.

We have just learned that we have been successful in obtaining funding through the Local Highways Panel for new signage indicating narrow lane unsuitable for heavy vehicles at the entrances to Lane Rd. Hopefully this will help to preserve this lovely rural road. We are still awaiting permission to locate a Vehicle Activate System outside the village hall, which we hope will slow traffic.

The footpath working group will be out and about this summer, undertaking clearance activities. And we are still looking for another councillor to join us. If you are interested please contact the clerk: parishclerk@wakescolne.org. We should like to welcome our new Ward Cllr. William Sunnucks who will be attending our meetings from September.

On Wednesday September 14th at 2.30 we plan to hold a get together in the village hall for those interested in participating in an oral history project for our village to discuss how this may be done and to bring our memories to life. I am aware of some who have much to contribute, but don't be shy, just contact me on chairperson@wakescolne.org if you would like to join in. And look out for notices of the event which will be posted.

Monica J. Taylor

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

Dear Readers,

What an amazingly busy month we have just had, with our platinum jubilee celebrations, lighting of the beacon, civic service and village picnic to celebrate our wonderful queens seventy years on the throne, thank you so much to those many people who contributed their help in the running of all these events, too many to name individually, but our gratitude is sent to them all. The following weekend we had a fantastic church fundraiser, an open gardens and craft fayre, again with so very many volunteers behind the scenes. The huge success was down to the enormous organisation done by Denise Stocker, she has worked tirelessly for several months in the planning of this event, and the church are hugely grateful to her. The weather was perfect, people just rolled into the 14 gardens around the two villages in an endless stream, it was such a very happy day, much enjoyed by all. The following weekend another fundraiser for the church arranged by Norwood Simpson and his Abbeygate concert band in the village hall, another great occasion, thank you Norwood and Valerie Sayer for work in arranging this event. The last week of June at Wakes Colne church we are looking forward to celebrating the joyous occasion of Ilona Bushell and George Rolls' wedding, congratulations to them both, we wish them a very happy life together. The day after the wedding our final celebration will be at Chappel church, the baptism of Elliot Sykes, what a lovely occasion a baby's baptism is where a baby enters the church's family, we are very grateful to Reverend Mark Payne for leading this service for us.

Our first service on July 3rd will be at Wakes Colne church at 10.00 am, this will be a morning service led by the PCC with Ian Scott-Thompson kindly delivering an address. The last Sunday of the month July 24th will be at Chappel, this will be a holy communion service led by visiting clergy. The first Sunday of August 7th will be a morning service led by Rev Ian Scott Thompson and will be held in Chappel church. The last Sunday of August Wakes Colne will be a Benefice Holy Communion led by Rev Ian Scott Thompson.

We would love you to come and welcome our new Priest in charge Rev Ian Scott Thompson and his wife Jane to our parish. Finally so many people have been thanked this month, but our greatest thanks go to our heavenly father for gifting us the lives we lead in this wonderful close knit parish, where we can enjoy a peaceful environment together, supporting each other in our day to day lives, our utmost gratitude goes to God our Father for making this possible for us and creating the beautiful world we live in.


Blessings to you all
Christine Maskell

A Service of Worship in Thanksgiving & Celebration of Queen's Platinum Jubilee, was held in Wakes Colne church on June 5th. Thank you for all those involved in its preparation and during the service.



Sadly Noel Graham passed away on 21st June. A service will be held at Chappel Church on 19th July at 10.30am followed by a service at Colchester Crematorium at 11.45am.

An article of Noels life will be shared in the next issue of the magazine.




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The Minister writes . . .

I HAVE to confess that when it comes to housekeeping, I'm of the 'out of sight, out of mind' school. That is to say, while I try to make sure that the 'public' areas of the house – those likely to be seen by visitors: living room, bathroom, kitchen – are clean and tidy, the same cannot be said for the interior of cupboards or the euphemistically-named storage room, which is just a depository for all kinds of old junk.

Last week my toaster suffered a fatal breakdown, and it was as I was consigning it to the junk room (out of sight, out of mind, remember) that I realised just how much useless

rubbish I have lying around. Apart from broken appliances – I found two old alarm clocks, a defunct DVD player, a broken radio, a teas-made, part of the instrument panel from a 1964 Ford Zodiac and several obsolete computers – there was also a huge tangle of electrical wiring, a cat's scratching-post (I no longer have a cat), a selection of camping equipment (I haven't been camping for years), a box of long-playing records from the 1970's (they might be valuable one day), a box of model railway equipment (ditto), a broken vacuum cleaner and an electric heater.

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The uncovering of this treasury of tat reminded me not only of the need for a good clear-out, but of the wastefulness of our consumer society. My roomful of useless junk is an indication to me that the acquisition of possessions is really a fool's errand. What is our pride and joy one day is a piece of rubbish the next, and it's no surprise that more and more people are turning from consumerism and seeking a simpler, less wasteful way of enriching their lives.

It all reminds me of the words of one of my favourite hymns:

*Lust of possessions causes desolations;
and meekness has no honour in the earth.
Your Kingdom come, O Lord, your will be done.*

Ken

News in Brief . . .

Our Church received many visitors during the Open Gardens day in June. A welcome guest recently to COFFEE AND CHAT was 6 months old James with his mother Sarah and grandad Robert – considerably lowering the average age range of attendees!

Summer Church Picnic

7.00pm Saturday 23 July By kind permission of Trudi Cresswell
in the lovely garden at 'Maynhoods'

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
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Nature notes

The garden is full of new life. Young birds are fledging, butterflies emerging in numbers and dragonflies darting around.

On the lawn, we've had young Goldfinches, just fledged Pied Wagtails plus parent, young Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers. In the early morning and evening, first brood House Martins from our eaves are zipping around: I reckon at least a dozen youngsters learning their trade.

The early cherries are out, small and too bitter for me, but the birds love them and in the morning the tree is quivering with numerous Starlings, Blackbirds and Jackdaws tearing at the fruit. A family of Mistle Thrushes has a better strategy though: instead of doing acrobatics on the end of very thin twiggy branches, they wait for cherries to be dropped. There have been at least 6 feasting away on the ground, including three young ones.

Cuckoo has been calling regularly and I am still hearing one occasionally. I thought 20th June was getting late for them to be still calling, but my notebook says that last year the final cuck-oo I heard was on 21st June, so this might be normal. Very hard to see; just one this year which I followed while driving along America Lane.

Butterflies in the garden have started well. The spring Orange Tips were flying well into May. Now (20th June) we have Speckled Wood, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell (several, so they seem to be on recovery from appalling low numbers in recent years), Meadow Brown, Large and Small Whites, and today the first Comma, basking in the afternoon sunshine on the brambles.

The greenhouse is proving to be a trap as well as home to tomatoes and peppers. The other day I was pinching-out side shoots on the tomatoes and there was a loud clunk on the glass. Outside on the table a young Great Spotted Woodpecker was spreadeagled and seemingly lifeless. I prodded it gently, and an eye opened, so I picked it up and wondered what to do. Water perhaps? I found an old bowl, filled it from the water butt, and tipped it so the bird could get its beak in. For the next 5 minutes or so it sipped the water and flicked some drops off its throat, but there was still no resistance from the bird in my hand and I was beginning to think what next. I put it down by the bowl, and then suddenly it came to life and took off and weaved its way through the shrubs. Left without saying goodbye.

Many birdwatchers seem to migrate to butterflies (which I've done) and then dragonflies (which I'm doing). I bought a guide book and now know the difference between damselflies and true dragonflies. Last year was a hesitant start. The problem is that most of them just don't keep still, and when you need to find subtle differences in the abdominal segments to work out which species it is – often differences seem to be at the end in segments S8 to S10 – this is not helpful.

But progress is being made. The garden attracts many up from the river, and Marks Hall with its lakes is a good place too. This year the Banded Demoiselles have been out now for a couple of weeks and several perch on the new leaves of the beech hedge; ie, they keep still sometimes. The male is blue, and the transparent wings have a large black smudge on them. Very pretty.

On the true dragonflies I am managing slowly to sort out the chasers from the hawkers. Trapped in the greenhouse the other day was a medium-sized dragonfly. It was perched on a tomato cane, and I caught it in a glass jar. Indoors, I got the book out and female Scare Chaser seemed to be what it was. A couple of bad photos to expert friend of a friend confirmed this is exactly what it was. Now, on birds I know the expected from the uncommon to the rare: if someone has seen a Blackbird I think OK, but a Wood Warbler in Chalkney Wood would be a wow. I got the sense though that Scare Chaser was just that – a bit scarce. My second Chaser in the garden – last year I saw a Broad-bodied Chaser on an old stem in the veg patch.

Tony Witcher

We are now half way through the cricket season, with a busy schedule coming up. The 1st team after promotion last year are currently second in division 6, only losing twice. The 2nd team are currently mid-table in division 7.



16 year old Bella Johnson made a history making century on Saturday 18th June, the first by a lady for Chappel in league cricket. An incredibly proud moment for the club.

Stand out performances so far;

Chris Carter; 55 vs Worlingworth, 54 vs Bury St Edmunds, 87 vs Bardwell.

Emily Eves; 20 dismissals as wicket keeper (ranked 1st in the whole league)

Alex Jackson; 50* vs Copdock.

Ben Jackson; 4-51 vs Tendring, 4-6 vs West Mersea.

Bella Johnson; 101* vs Maldon.

David Maytham; 51* vs Tendring.

Tristan Moseley; 60* vs Kesgrave + 8 dismissals as wicket keeper.

Mayank Patni; 56 vs Tendring, 51* vs Melton St Audry's.

Jack Perfect-Brown; 4-2 vs Kesgrave.

Stuart Rose; 73 vs West Bergholt, 60 vs Woolpit, 50 vs Copdock, 61 vs Maldon

Tom Whiteman; 127 vs Worlingworth, 54 vs High Roding, 4-16 and 142 vs Braintree, 7-22 vs Woodbridge, 54* vs Kesgrave, 66 and 7-36 vs Bury St Edmunds, 115* and 5-60 vs Melton St Audry's. Tom is currently ranked 1st in the whole league for wickets taken and 5th for runs scored.

Ross Wyatt; 97* vs Braintree.

We hosted a regional Kwik Cricket tournament on Friday 20th May, which was an incredibly busy and hectic, yet enjoyable evening with 21 teams in attendance which proved to be a good fundraiser for us. Thank you to everybody who volunteered to help in all capacities and also to everyone who took part.

On Wednesday 1 June Chappel and Wakes Colne CC took a girls' team to an Essex event held at Billericay. Teams of 8 were the norm, however due to half term we could only field 6, but attended none the less. Our first game was against Billericay and was Captained by Maddison. We won the toss and decided to field. Maddison, with only 6 players, worked out her bowling order and placed her field. The girls turned a really good fielding display. Lexi took a good catch, and some good ground fielding, but for all their efforts, they were chasing a total of 46. Maddison and Lexi opened

the batting, although running lots of extras could not get the ball past the Billericay fielders. Against tight bowling we lost by 14 runs. The girls had done really well with only 6.

Our next game was against Upminster and Billericay lent us 2 players, again we fielded and the girls from the first match carried on, where they had left off. Charlotte took a good catch defending the boundary and Olivia was unlucky not to get a wicket, when one of the Billericay girls dropped a catch. We were chasing over 50 runs. During the chase we lost 4 wickets, but again the girls tried to bat correctly and not give there wickets away.

The bottom placed clubs from each pitch played each other in the afternoon. We were up against Brightlingsea and Bannock. We again fielded first, this was a tighter game and we were lent 2 players by Brightlingsea, again very good fielding and Charlotte fielding at short mid-wicket almost pulled off the catch of the season, but stopped any run. Again, our batters struggled to hit it passed the fielders and lost. This set us up against Brightlingsea who had also lost all their games. We were again fielding first. The girls again fielded well restricting them to 36 runs. In response we changed our opening pair again and found a winning combination of Maddison and Matilda. The girls hit the winning run in the 5th over, very well done.

Congratulations go to our chairman, Harry Carter and his wife Jess, who announced that their second child is due in November.

We wish Mark Eves a quick recovery having broken his collar bone, left radius and right little finger.

Dates:

We will once again be at The Officers Club in Colchester on Saturday 29th October, for our annual awards evening. More details to follow.

Our full fixture list is available on our website; cwc.play-cricket.com. For those who may not necessarily want to play, why not come to the ground and enjoy a good game of cricket this summer? We really would love for more people from the villages come and support us, the sun will be shining and the bar will be open – come and enjoy our facilities.

From all at CWCCC.

Bee Lines



For a beekeeper, each year is different from the last. Bee behaviour and performance is very much dependant on the weather. In the last few days we have gone from record high temperatures one day, to needing a sweater in order to remain outdoors just 24 hours later. Massive electrical storms (almost) kept me awake for much of the night.

The bees have seen it all before, and continue to prepare for the imminent honey harvest, peaking in early to mid-July, which will ensure their survival over the next winter and hopefully put a little honey on our breakfast toast and tea time bread and butter as well.

In order to ensure a good honey crop, we need big strong hives at this time of year. This requires a steady build-up of bee numbers in over wintered colonies. The main event that will prevent this is if the hive swarms, thus losing half of its bees and taking three weeks or so to replace the departed queen.

Fortunately, so far none of my hives appear to have swarmed, but I am pretty sure that one of them has replaced its queen. How so, I hear you ask.

Bees swarm when the colony gets too large for its hive, although in some years the weather plays a part. There is also a genetic tendency towards swarming in some colonies. Fortunately, this year has not favoured the swarming tendency so far, weather wise. Genetics are a different story however,

Up until the middle of the 18th century bees were kept in straw baskets known as skeps. Beekeepers encouraged their overwintered colonies to swarm early in the year, producing lots of skeps by autumn. The strongest colonies were then allowed to over winter to form next year's stock. Everything else was culled in order to harvest the honey, destroying the bees in the process. This method, naturally, encouraged swarming, and bees that readily swarmed were more desirable to bee keepers.

This philosophy was reversed in 1852 when the Rev. Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth, extending the work of others, patented a bee hive with removable frames in the United States. Suddenly, there was no need to cull hives in order to extract honey. The honey yielding frames could be removed from the hive, extracted and replaced, without harming the resident bees.

This was a total game changer, ushering in a radically new concept to keeping bees, and founding the modern practice of bee keeping. Of course, this also meant that swarmy bees would be discouraged as good yields of honey could be obtained from far fewer hives, provided their keeper could prevent them from swarming.

The prevention of swarming is a battle that still goes on to this day, but there are some circumstances in which the bees need to replace their queen for other reasons. Perhaps she is sick, or even dies, or sometimes the colony might just feel it is time for a change. At times like this, the bees opt to supersede their queen, in a type of coup, and this has happened to one of my colonies this spring.

I have stated previously that swarming is usually a characteristic of large colonies. My colony was by far my smallest, and was not thriving at all like the rest of them. Also, when swarming, a colony will produce many swarm cells, each containing a potential new queen. A superseding colony however produces just a couple of new queen cells.

So it was no surprise to me, on inspecting my smallest hive in early May, to find two new queen cells within. A week later, having culled one of the cells, the remaining one was empty. The new queen had hatched.

This is always a worrying time as it may be several weeks, (at least three,) before eggs and larvae are seen and one can be confident that supersedure has been successful. If it fails, there are still a couple of things you can do to help to save the colony, but you must act quickly. When, four weeks later, there were still no positive signs, I began to worry.

Difficult as it is, my philosophy to bee keeping has always been "wait and see", "give them more time" and "the bees know best". Sure enough, having left them alone for a further fortnight, a recent inspection revealed several patches of tiny gleaming, snow white larvae curled up at the bottom of the comb. Success!

My new queen will not produce a honey crop this year, but should build up her colony in order to enable it to get through next winter. The new young queen next spring will be a real asset, and if she has her mother's genetic tendency to supersedure rather than swarming, I can use her as stock to breed up other queens for my more temperamental hives. Happy days (hopefully)

Your bee correspondent, The Old Drone

UPDATE FROM LEWIS BARBER. COUNCILLOR FOR ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Since my last update, the cost of living crisis continues to place pressures on households across the local area. I want to take this opportunity for a reminder that there is support available from Essex County Council (ECC). Please do get in touch on cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk if you or somebody you know needs help.

On top of this, ECC is tackling the underlying causes of hardship. One way this is being done is through our local levelling up fund. I am working with colleagues across the borough to identify projects and organisations that could benefit from additional funding to help 'level up'. If you have any suggestions in the local area, please do get in touch.

A major local issue over the last month or so has been National Grid's overground pylon proposal. I am strongly opposed to National Grid's current plans. I fully support the concept of North Sea wind farms to generate abundant, cheap, clean electricity. Furthermore, the recent increase in energy prices, coupled with the global insecurity of energy supplies gives added impetus to this strategy. However, my strongly preferred approach is an offshore route instead, which National Grid has accepted is possible. I am pleased to have drafted and submitted a joint consultation response with all borough councillors and parish councils in the division, including Chappel and Wakes Colne, to oppose the over-ground pylon proposal and support the offshore proposal instead. I am further pleased that ECC has formally come out firmly against the current proposals too. Your new borough councillor William Sunnucks has also been leading the charge to push Colchester Borough Council to have a further response than it initially prepared.

I also continue to work with the Parish Councils as well as Cllr Sunnucks to improve traffic management and road safety. I will be meeting the councillor in charge of highways in the area to discuss next steps. There will be a new speed indicator device installed down the A1124 in due course, which I am pleased to be making a funding contribution towards via my locality budget. We are also exploring other sites and awaiting the outcome of a speed survey down Station Road for the implementation of a 20 mph speed limit. There is also the village gateways on Chappel Hill that have been funded to encourage slower speeds. I am also pleased to have secured funding for Lane Road from the local highways panel for unsuitable for HGV signage on each end of the road.

Please also be aware of upcoming road closures in the area. There will be repairs to pavements on Fordstreet Hill (A1124) between New Road and Green Lane, which requires a road closure 18th-23rd July to allow the works to take place. I am pleased to have secured funding for repairs to Chappel Road between Earls Colne Road junction and Oak Road. However, this does mean a road closure will be in place during this section between 1st-5th September. There will also be a road closure on Tey Road 19th-21st September by Anglian Water for repairs to their infrastructure.

Finally, one area I am keen to drive forward is improvements rural public transport. As explained in my last update, ECC has begun its new bus strategy to help deliver more reliable, cheaper and cleaner rural buses. An interesting policy I am actively looking to implement across the division is Digigo, which is new technology being trialled in parts of Essex. Digigo is a fully electric shared public transport service which offers on-demand or pre-bookable travel and is a potential way we can drive up the choice of public transport. Contact Details: cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk @cllrlewisbarber on Facebook

Throughout the month, we send out local information in our email newsletter. If you would like to subscribe, please do let me know.



**Support Your School
Become a School Governor**

Chappel Primary School has vacancies for school governors. You do not need to be a parent. This is a great opportunity to support the village school and learn new skills. Full training is provided.

If you are interested please get in touch with the school or the chair of governors for more information.

School Head Teacher: Julie Ingram admin@chappel.essex.sch.uk 01787 222296
Chair of Governors: Stephen Thompson S.Thompson@chappel.essex.sch.uk

CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE WOMENS INSTITUTE

Back in April we had a lovely evening when Marjorie Callum from Guide Dogs for the Blind came to talk to us accompanied by her beautiful puppy in training called Carlo.

The story of guide dogs began in the first world war when a German doctor was walking with a patient in the grounds of a hospital, the doctor was called away but left his dog with his patient for company. When he returned he realized that the dog had been taking care of the patient which sparked the idea of using dogs as carers. The organization has been in existence for 91 years this year. It has its own breeding program with selected bitches and dogs to ensure good temperament etc. Deborah told us that she had been associated with guide dogs for 58 years and is now referred to as a "puppy raiser" – she certainly was extremely experienced and knowledgeable. When the puppies are 7 weeks old approximately they are sent to "puppy raisers" for their early training. They come with a name and are taught toilet training and eating habits which are the very basics of young animals.. Deborah explained how she takes her puppy to building sites to experience different noises – unfortunately the men tend to stop what they are doing for a chat and she has to ask them to continue making lots of noise as that is the point of the exercise! The puppy always walks on the left as that is the side it would walk with its owner when out. Puppies are also trained not to respond if they see another dog or cat – such sport is permitted of course in their own gardens but the art is to differentiate! When the puppy is around 15 months old they move on "to school" where they are further trained with specific duties and also importantly getting used to having a full harness on with the handle. When qualified the dogs are very carefully matched to their new owner to enable them to gel together. Most dogs retire around 9 years old depending on their health. Failed dogs who do not come up to the exacting standards sometimes go on to be a "buddy dog" to a family with a partially sighted child for example. They can also

go on to be detector dogs.

We had our AGM in May -which is normally a somewhat dull and formal event – it turned out to be just the opposite as we decided to combine it with a mini Platinum Jubilee celebration. Members all wore red white and blue clothes – tables were laid with pretty tablecloths and with multiple contributions of nibbles and drinks we had a very social time. Some ladies brought treasured memorabilia presented to them for the Coronation in 1953.

At the end of May we entered a team for the Inter WI Quiz at Highwoods Community Centre. It was a very jolly evening with the mandatory nibbles and drinks - I will not say how well we did but at least we represented ourselves and had a laugh.

The June meeting was our fashion show presented by Edinburgh Woolen Mill. The numbers attending were somewhat disappointing but we all had a fun time which is what it is all about.

Next meeting is on July 20th a presentation called WILDFLOWERS AND INSECTS by Roger Hance and on August 24th we have a visit to a garden by kind invitation of Louise and Jim Irvine. The village hall meeting will be at 7.30 as usual.

Dorothyb.crees@googlemail.com

Ambling Arthritics

Come and join us in a new walking group for those who want some exercise at their own pace.

We shall be doing a circular walk for 1-1.5 hours,10.30 to 12 noon, on a Friday morning, starting outside the Post Office.

First walk Friday 5th August and fortnightly thereafter.

Contact: 01 787 223425 or just turn up on the day.

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Unit 14a, Wakes Hall Business Centre, Colchester Road, Wakes Colne, Colchester, Essex, CO6 2DY www.airconinstallation-uk.com



Exhibition of Work by Local Artists Organised by Colne Valley Art Group

Wakes Colne Village Hall

Saturday, 24th September. 10.30 am to 5.00 pm

All welcome, entry to view the exhibition free
Exhibition entries from non-members welcome.

Entries £1 per item, no commission
on sales.
Entries from children 12 and under
free

Please contact Peter Chillingworth for
entry details.
01206 240230 or pe-
ter.chillingworth@btinternet.com



Coping with the Cost of Living, Energy and Climate Crises

First I would like to
thank Station Road
residents for the
amazing display of
wildflowers they
have provided this
spring and
summer.



My life is powered
by sunshine. It's
taken a while, but
we now have
enough solar
panels and battery
storage to supply
our all electric
home and my all
electric car, so we
don't have gas or oil bills, and our electricity bill is tiny. In May we
bought £25.41 worth of electricity from Octoenergy, which
powered all our heating, hot water, cooking and charged my plug
in electric car (EV) to drive 965 miles.

Of course, this took upfront investment, so we were fortunate
that we are retired and both had pension pots that weren't
earning any interest to speak of, so it made sense for us to take
advantage of the Government grant (currently £5,000) towards
replacing our elderly oil fired Rayburn with an Air Source Heat
Pump (ASHP). It sits outside our kitchen window, freeing up
space in the kitchen where the Rayburn used to be, working like
a fridge in reverse, making indoors warmer and outdoors cooler,
humming like a fridge when on. It is much more efficient than any
other form of electric heater. Ours was installed in September,
and we have just experienced our most comfortable winter ever.

Solar panels also take upfront investment, but with rising fuel
bills will pay you back in a few years, and you will always have
much smaller fuel bills ever after. Battery storage will store the
energy made when it's light for you to use when it's dark, helping
to cut your bills further.

Currently we are exporting as much energy to the grid when it's
bright outside as we are importing when it's dark and the
batteries are running low, and we get paid for what we export.

Of course, I first looked at doing this because I'm trying to reduce
my carbon footprint as much as I can, and I've certainly achieved
that, but it has also turned out to be a great comfort in times of
rising bills to know that we don't need to worry about our fuel
bills.

Economically this makes most sense when you need a new
boiler or car, and both ASHP and EV are great options to look at
if your boiler or car are nearing the end of their lives. If you'd like
more detail please email me.

If you need neither new boiler or car, but would still like to cut
both your fuel bills and carbon output, you could look hard at
your home insulation. The more it costs to heat your home, the
more worthwhile it becomes to keep that warmth indoors where
you need it, not seeping out through the roof, walls, or leaky
doors and windows, and summertime is a good time to do it.
People on benefits can get free Government grants to cover loft
and cavity wall insulation, and if you're not on benefits, try
websites like Money Saving Expert to find grants you can
access.

I invited our MP, Sir Bernard Jenkin, to see our nearly carbon
zero home, that's him leaning on our ASHP. It's bigger than
average, most are smaller. (ASHP, not MP!). He was surprised
and impressed at what we have been able to achieve in a home
built in 1860, and left with the intention of switching his hybrid to
a plug in EV, and getting more solar panels and batteries him-
self. I'd invited him in the hope of persuading him that the Gov-
ernment should help everyone do that, so as ever, there is still
work to do.

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



Platinum Jubilee Villagers Picnic

Lots of fun had by all those who attended the picnic at
the East Anglian Railway Museum on 5th June. The heavy
rain from the day before didn't put off those looking to
celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Traditional games
such as the egg and spoon, sack and hobby horse race
and wellie throwing were enjoyed by both children and
adults. The museum offered unlimited steam rides on
their trains and a brilliant raffle raised over £200 for the
museum.

A big thank you to the organising team, EARM for hosting
the event and to the companies who donated a raffle
prize. These included Anglian Flight Centres, Bodyworks
Chiropractic Clinic, Ellisons Solicitors, Mandy Sexton Ar-
chitect, The Essex Golf & Country Club, Greater Anglian
Railway, Local Artist, Storm Dents Limited, Oliver's Plants,
The Thatchers Arms, Busy Bee Honey, Nicholas Percival,
Colchester Brewery, Fran Hounslow and Kidamajig.



THE CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE STATION ADOPTERS GROUP

Since our inception around the first lockdown period
our small group of volunteer Adopters have made a
difference to the overall wellbeing of Platform One
at the station by obtaining numerous self- watering
containers which have been re-planted twice a year.
The Adopters acknowledge that we need to be
environmentally compliant so only peat free
compost is used.

A watering rota is operated by the volunteers, rather
than leaving the plants to the elements.

During last year we set up a three person committee to oversee our operation.
Last summer we planted a selection of vegetables in two planters, which attracted
a few encouraging comments, whilst visitors were invited to 'pick your own', this
has now been replaced by Herbs.

This year in honour to Her Majesty the Queen we managed to obtain a three tier
display that has been planted with red white and blue plants. We thank Chappel
Parish Council for their generous grant towards the new display. In addition we
have organised a display of art work undertaken by pupils of Chappel C of E
Primary School who designed and created an excellent nature inspired 'Bee



Friendly' artwork, which we had laminated and hung the art work on the
railings for all to see. Meanwhile we have a couple of nesting boxes to locate
for small bird occupation. In recognition of Her Majesty's Jubilee Celebration a
Beech Tree [Fagus sylvatica] has been planted on the front embankment.
Another area where we are trying to assist the Village[s] is having a
Community Display Board to advertise local events and provide information.
We have asked a few Village organisation to take advantage of the display
board although the uptake has been slow.

The present board is an old cast off from the Railway Company but a smart
new lockable display board is now in place. We thank Wakes Colne Parish
Council for providing a grant towards the new purchase and will acknowledge
both Parish Councils once the new display is up and running.

Another innovation will be the installation of a 'Talking Bench', this will be
sited, not on the platform but opposite the East Anglian Railway Museum
entrance, it will feature a press button operated message informing visitors of
the local features and provide a quiet sitting area.

The adopters group trust that we are improving and enhancing the station
and providing a useful information service to locals and visitors alike, we
operate with the help of Essex & South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership,
have a good working relationship with EARM and are able to liaise with
Greater Anglia Railways. That said, we cannot make the trains run on time!
Stephen Scrase Group Leader