



GOOD EASTER **VILLAGE NEWS**

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COUNCIL

It really was a bad winter - not so much the snow but the intense cold and it is only now when we fill up our oil tanks and pay the electricity bills that the true cost is known.

Yet, as ever, the sun has appeared and we are enjoying a warm Spring, we know when Spring has arrived when 'Conrad's Daffs' appear along Souther Cross Road - this year they have been augmented by the bulbs planted outside the Village Hall and on Tye Green, courtesy of Chelmsford Borough Council who invited applications from Parish Councils to request bulbs for planting. We were fortunate and our bulbs arrived in good time for planting which was carried out by members of the Parish Council and volunteers. I have received many positive comments on this planting and look forward to next Spring when they will multiply.

We are fortunate in Good Easter that levels of crime have been fairly low - however this does not appear to be lasting. To have the BT cabling stolen between the village and the 1060 along Fountain Road not once but twice and also to have quite a few break-ins and theft from garden sheds during the past few months indicates that the 'easy times' may have ended. We are all part of Neighbourhood Watch and as a village community we must keep an eye on our neighbour's property and protect it as we would our own.

Our Annual Council Meeting is on Wednesday May 19th with the public Open Meeting at 8.00pm - as Parishioners and Council Tax Payers you should come along, a good chance to meet up with your Parish Councillors, Borough Councillor and County Councillor.

Alan Hall - Chairman Good Easter Parish Council

BULK RUBBISH COLLECTION

We have received notification from the Borough Council that due to the comprehensive kerbside collection service the bulk rubbish collection will cease. Large items will be collected on request at a charge - this service is free to OAPs and residents in receipt of benefits. We hope that this new policy will not lead to more fly tipping!

VILLAGE NATURE NOTES SPRING 2010

My last article for the village news was in September 2009 and the local Linnet flock gradually built up to a record 325 by October in the field known as Greate Tweache behind Mill Rd.

I do not know what is special about this field, but whilst neighbouring fields were devoid of birds, this field, seemingly planted with the same crops as all the others had not only record numbers of Linnets, but 300 Pigeons, 300 Rooks, 150 Lapwings and 55 Golden Plovers, with loads of Starlings and Skylarks.

Needless to say they attracted the attention of potential predators and sure enough on Oct 20th a Peregrine appeared and caused total mayhem before flying off. It was to appear again on Feb 10th and I suspect it is the same bird that I saw in March 2006, the only other record of this species I have ever seen locally.

The first Fieldfares arrived at the end of October. November saw summer birds like Chiffchaff still singing and a Bumble Bee was on the wing on the 21st.

On Dec 10th, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Great Tit and Song Thrush were all still singing but little did they (or we) know what weather was in store for the next three months.

Four days later the first snows arrived with arctic winds from the north.

As well as more Fieldfares from the north, there were probably well over 100 Redwings with them, with at least 40 on Tye Green alone.

Just before Christmas, Skylarks had built up to 95 by Souther Cross sewerage works, with 185 on Boxing Day (a local record) rising to an even more impressive 245 by Jan 5th.

At the village fishing lake, my dog "Boris" put up a Snipe and 2 Woodcock on Jan 18th.

So what effect did the prolonged cold winter have on bird numbers ? Well typically Wrens suffer but as I write at the end of April they are singing everywhere. For the second winter running Goldfinches, which always used to disappear for the winter, stayed in large numbers. Garden bird feeders almost certainly played a part here.

More surprisingly I had a Blackcap in the garden at the end of January. This summer visitor is very rare in any winter, let alone the one we have just endured. Equally telling were the several visits to my garden of a Grey Wagtail, a bird of fast running upland streams and not to be confused with the local resident Pied Wagtails.

Fieldfares built up to 220 on the racetrack at the end of January. Boris put up another Woodcock at the end of February when we decided we had had enough of the winter and went to Florida for nearly 3 weeks for some sunshine.

Ah Florida, the "Sunshine State" !! It was just our luck that unfortunately they too had endured the coldest winter in living memory. The birds were of course fantastic as usual, which could be the subject of a future article but I did not expect to leave the US for home on March 18th in a temperature of 52° F when it was a sweltering 55°F here for heavens sake !!!

Martin Henry

From the County Council



With this winter's unprecedented cold snap sending heating bills soaring, **Essex County Council** is offering a new service to vulnerable people to help them make their homes more energy efficient. When making home visits to vulnerable clients, **Home Improvement Agencies** across the county are additionally able to offer energy efficiency advice which is adapted to suit the householder's personal needs and circumstances.

Twenty staff, including case workers and handy person staff, are now **City and Guilds** trained and it is estimated that over 500 home visits are made by these teams each month. Staff can advise on energy saving initiatives such as:- home energy efficiency, heating controls and fuel sources, paying fuel bills/ fuel debt, condensation, damp and mould, energy efficiency grants. The service also enables teams to make referrals for grant money to organisations such as "**Warmfront**". **0800 316 2805** or <http://www.warmfront.co.uk/>

It is my hope that this new service will enable the **County Council** to give energy saving advice to people who really need it but might not otherwise be aware of it.

Notwithstanding the recent bad weather; **Essex County Council** upgraded eighty four roads, pavements or footpaths across the county in the last weeks of December; meaning that more than a thousand road improvement schemes were completed in 2009. Many of the schemes were initiated at the request of local communities, parish councils or as a result of regular inspections of the road network.

Currently **Highways** teams are assessing the damage caused to the roads as a result of the bad weather; with a view to making urgent repairs to restore the network. But after snow and ice comes the inevitable pot holes. If you know of one that needs repair please report it on **0845 603 7631** or use the fault reporting on line <http://www.essex.gov.uk/> and click "Report a Highway Fault". Please don't leave it to others.

The **County Council** has also announced it will be hosting a major national conference to look at issues arising from the effects of the bad weather and understand lessons for the future. The **Snow Summit**, which takes place in **Essex** at the start of March, will provide a forum for discussion and debate about this year's harsh winter, the impact on our transport network and our ability to deal with similar conditions in future years. Representatives from Scandinavian countries, who deal with harsh conditions year on year, will be invited to share their experience and expertise.

Personally, I would like to see greater involvement by the public in snow and ice clearing to make the streets safer especially for the very young and the elderly or infirm. This means better access to salt/grit in priority areas such as near schools and sheltered accommodation, together with a clarification of the law which should protect volunteers from legal action in the event of accidents arising from those who are seeking only, with best endeavour, to help others in their community.

If you have any problems about **County Council** matters please let me know on 01245 421524 or Cllr.John.Aldridge@essexcc.gov.uk

Cllr. John Aldridge – February 2010

The Daisy Circle

It has been a very full half year for the Daisy Circle with a lot going on since the last review.

October 2009

We had a visit from Rosemary Loy and her husband John who brought along a selection of their Fair Trade goods for sale. These included gifts that were very useful for Christmas presents along with a range of Fair Trade clothing and accessories. Some of the bolder ladies amongst us put on an excellent fashion show. It was such a successful evening that we will probably have Rosemary and John back again in the future especially as the proceeds from the sale go to such a good cause.

A Beetle Drive was held on Saturday 24th October which was a really enjoyable evening. We managed to raise over £250.00 helping to boost our donations to our chosen charities

November

Alan Howell was our guest speaker this month demonstrating how he produces unique pendants, earrings and handles for letter openers etc. from beautiful coloured glass. Again we had the opportunity to buy some of the things that Alan had made

December

Our Christmas meeting this year was held at Jan and Maurice's house. It was a lovely social evening with food and wine and much conversation. There was also a surprise Lucky Dip from Mrs Santa which added to the fun. We all appreciated Jan and Maurice letting us use their lovely home on this occasion.

January

Richard Matthews gave an interesting talk on Good Easter before and during the Second World War. It was a time when we had a school, a shop and of course a village pub; alas all sadly gone. Although Old Croft Close And Souther Cross were still to be built the village had a much larger population then as many of the older houses which still exist to-day were divided into several dwellings and were multi-occupied. He also spoke of the way land was farmed without the use of modern machinery, a much more labour intensive way of farming which meant more employment for the villagers.

February

Our speaker this month was Alan Turner who runs a jewellery business in Writtle. He gave us lots of ideas for presents when it comes to birthdays and special occasions although he will not be the most popular of our speakers as far as husbands or partners are concerned.

We also held a very successful bring and buy sale at this month's meeting which made over £130.00 for Little Havens Hospice.

March

This month two guests from St. John's Ambulance turned up to talk about and demonstrate their work. The demonstration involved making and applying a sling and afterwards we had fun practising on each other. The previous evening the film "A Painted Veil" was enjoyed by all who went to see it at Jean and Bob's house. This was one of several films that we have seen over the last year and many thanks go to Jean and Bob for inviting us into their home to watch the films. Always an enjoyable evening!

A trip to see the film "The Red Shoes" at the Cramphorn Theatre in Chelmsford along with an evening out to see Joe Brown in concert at the Civic Theatre is planned for the near future.

PLANTS FOR SALE

*Wood End Farm, Boyton Cross, Roxwell (next to Newland Hall) has been growing from seed many plants for the past 20 years. Perennials, Hanging Basket Plants, Hanging Basket Plants and many others are available Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. 01245 231792
A local farmer and grower who gives good value with quality.*

THE MONDAY CLUB

The Monday Club meets on the second Monday of each month in the Village Hall at 2.00pm. All are welcome to come along and enjoy a very sociable afternoon.

The Alzheimer's Research Trust recently benefited by £105 – the proceeds of a Bring & Buy Sale and awarded the Monday Club a Gratitude Certificate signed by their Chief Executive was presented to the club.

YOUR RURAL COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

The Neighbourhood Action Panel meetings are held by Essex Police within each neighbourhood. The local policing team hold the meetings to prioritise local issues and seek to solve issues from within the community. These meetings are 'open' for the first half hour for local people to raise concerns and voice their opinions .

The next meeting will be held at **Good Easter Village Hall on Thursday June 24th at 7.00pm. Come along and give voice to your concerns on policing within the village.**

HELP IMPROVE THE AREA YOU LIVE IN.....

Join Chelmer Housing Partnership – PCSOs and local residents to inspect your neighbourhood and help to highlight possible improvements and repairs. **MEET AT GOOD EASTER VILLAGE HALL SEPTEMBER 8TH 2010 AT 10am.**

WRITTLE GARDENS OPEN DAY

17 gardens in Writtle will be open to the public on Sunday June 20th 12 noon to 6pm together with plants for sale – bell ringing - school displays – allotments and Writtle College. Admission by programme £3, children free. All proceeds to All Saints Church

Cannon John Vaughan-Jones

The Telegraph Obituaries page on April 30th contained a familiar name – Vaughan – Jones. Cannon John was a well known Padre serving with the Parachute Regiment and on his death aged 92 was believed to be the last surviving Padre to see action with the Regiment in World War 2. Why was the name familiar? His father William Vaughan-Jones was vicar of St Andrews, Good Easter from 1925-1933 and John lived at the Vicarage when he attended KEGS Chelmsford. A small world!

Chelmsford Borough Council Mobile Information Service

The Chelmsford Borough Council Mobile Information Service will visit Good Easter Village Hall on the second Monday of each month 1.30-pm to 3.00pm. They can help you with applications for bus passes and rail concessions – recycling information and replacement sacks – information about housing or benefits – reporting litter, graffiti, dog fouling etc – viewing planning applications on line and much more.

No appointment necessary – please call in. May 10th – June 14th – July 12th etc

GOOD EASTER VILLAGE HALL

You may well have noticed that the Village Hall is looking very smart with new soffits, gutters and down pipes. In addition to this work the interior and exterior has been painted, new windows installed and the floor has been sanded and sealed. All of this work has cost a lot of money and the village hall funds administered by the committee were all but exhausted.

To help replace this money an Italian Evening was held and was considered to be a roaring success by all who attended. A wide range of Italian flavoured food was provided together with Italian wines. The old favourites of a quiz, stand up bingo and an excellent raffle made for an evening of enjoyment for all who came along.

The Chairman, Paul West and the committee thank everyone for their help – the funds are now looking a lot healthier!

A GENTLE REMINDER THAT THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY MAY 19TH 2010 AT 8.00PM – ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME ALONG

IT'S A CRIME.....

As stated in the opening paragraph crime, particularly theft, is on the increase within the area. You will notice the Neighbourhood Watch notices posted in the village recently concerning a theft from Wares Road of a motor lawn mower and various other equipment from a secure storage – if you can offer any information please contact PC Willsher 0300 333 4444 of Good Easter Neighbourhood Watch on 07970 599923.

The neighbourhood policing team has changed – Chief Supt. Glenn Maleary is in charge and in the team is Sgt Neil Marshall 0300 333 444 ext 485295. PC Martin Willsher 0300 333 4444 Ext . 485956. Our PCSO is Gina Bennett – watch out for her on her bike! Mob. Number 07817 454884.

There have been reports of bogus callers and traders in the area, they may pose as an official from electricity or water. Always ask for official identity and if in doubt call the company to verify that they are genuine. Do not be afraid to shut the door on the caller whilst you check and remember to use the official directory number – not the number they give you. Remember... Think before you open the door...Beware of callers who encourage you to leave your house so letting an accomplice in.

Treat every stranger with caution if in doubt call Essex Police on 0300 333 444 or Crime stoppers 0800 555111. A few useful tips.....

- * Close and lock your back door before answering the front door,
- * Use a spy hole, door chain or bar.
- * Always ask for proof of identity and read it carefully.
- * Get quotes from reputable companies whose addresses can be confirmed.
- * Don't believe a cash deal is cheaper.
- * Don't believe that all callers are genuine.
- * Do not leave car keys where they can be reached through your letter box.
- * Keep all loose keys in a locked key box.

For further information access the Essex Police Web Site www.essex.police.uk or www.essex.police.uk/yourarea and enter your postcode to find out what is happening in this area.

Thanks to Brenda Cross Essex Watch – Chelmsford and Braintree District for keeping us up to date

And finally.....

This has been the longest newsletter since they were started quite a few years ago, a ten page marathon!

We live in a small community and if a little more 'community spirit' could be built up we would have a full playing field committee – Neighbourhood Watch could play a more effective role in reducing crime by keeping an eye out for strangers and our village would be a cleaner safer place to live in.

Alan Hall.