

# INDEX

<b>1. THE HISTORY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. TOWN-PLANNING ORDER AND TERRITORY.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2.1. Historical buildings .....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1.1.The Roncalli Palace .....	6
2.1.2.The Churches.....	7
2.1.3.Fountains .....	8
<b>2.2. Position and distances from the main sights .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3. ENVIRONMENT .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>3.1. Let's clean the world .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>4. SPORT .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>4.1. Sport in Chignolo .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>4.2. Sports facilities.....</b>	<b>13</b>
4.2.1.Primary school gym – Roncalli Street.....	13
4.2.2.Sports centre – Picasso Street.....	14
4.2.3.Secondary School Gym – Picasso Street .....	14
4.2.4.Parish football grounds in Manzoni Street.....	14
4.2.5.Isola Swimming Pool – Galilei Street .....	15
<b>5. ASSOCIATIONS.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5.1. “Don Bosco” voluntary association .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5.2. Musical corps “Santa Eurosia”.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>5.3. Sports club .....</b>	<b>17</b>
5.3.1.Football section (11 players).....	17
5.3.2.Football section (7 players).....	18
5.3.3.Bowls club.....	18
5.3.4.Volleyball section .....	18
5.3.5.Basket section.....	19
5.3.6.Maintaining gym .....	19
5.3.7.Rhythmical gymnastic.....	19
<b>5.4. Alpini group .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>5.5. Photogroup .....</b>	<b>20</b>

<b>6. EDUCATION AND SPARE TIME.....</b>	<b>21</b>
6.1. Primary school .....	21
6.2. Secondary school .....	21
6.3. Cultural centre .....	21
6.4. Library .....	21

# 1. The history

Nowadays archaeological traces in the Chignolo territory are scarcely to be found out, although the village is comprised in a geographical district which has given, throughout history, several witnesses dating back to prehistory, Classicism and the Middle Ages. Anyway, there are traces of mentions related to the Chignolo territory starting from the 7th century A.D.

Nevertheless, when historical texts become more explicit, we are faced with written tales which, starting from 1112, refer more and more often to the name of Chignolo in acts regarding the so called "decime" or sales of land. One of such kind of texts clearly refers to a settlement named Chignolo, which boasts a fortified castle standing on a not very high hill overlooking the plain below.

The 12th century sees the coming of the "Umiliati" (humiliated), which were to leave an uncancellable sign in the inhabitants' mind. The humiliated made themselves known where the Benedictine Monasticism failed since incapable to face the decay of the feudal system, the development of the city states and all the problems they brought about: the growth of new social orders and of new poverty.

The houses of the Humiliated were centres which melted work to spirituality: on one hand they were forerunners of the work of spinning mills and on the other hand bound to an absolute religious commitment.

The name of Venturino, who got blessed and lived in the first half of the 14th century, became a piece of Chignolo history, since the descendants of the Ceresoli family of the Chignolo branch claimed that he belonged to their family. Actually the Ceresoli family kept an important relic (the index finger of his right hand) belonging to Venturino for centuries, which was then given in 1960 to St. Peter's Church in Chignolo, where it is still kept.

The crucial years for Chignolo history are those between the fourteenth and fifteenth century: then the Chignolo community was achieving his own identity. On the one hand the country planning and the balance in the division of land (for the first time the names of Roncalli, Rota and Locatelli appeared) were being defined, on the other hand the cruel clashes between Guelphs and Ghibellines were involving and devastating the territory of the so-called island. These dramatic events led to the conquest of the Chignolo castle by the Guelph Galeazzo Gonzaga. After a confused and stormy period followed by a short dominion of Milan, Bergamo passed under the leadership of Venice which had the towers of various noble residences knocked down: even the Castle of Chignolo couldn't do anything but undergoing the same destiny.

Between the 15th and the 16th century the settlements definitively settled down and urban structures moved where you can find now the so called historical centre.

Even the land transfer to new families was a sign of historical and social changes. A new group of families settled down in Chignolo not for political but for economical reasons, which, together with a rising brand new middle-class awareness, brought about in the 16th century the idea that moving to Chignolo could be a safe investment especially thanks to its agricultural development which has characterized it till today.

The Church had a prominent importance throughout the 17th and 18th centuries; witnesses are the four Churches which were built throughout years: the first parish Church of St. Peter in Campis stood where now the Cemetery is. St. Mary's was the second parish Church and stood near the present Oratory; the third parish Church is the present Sanctuary; the current Parish Church is the New Church, the entry of which opens to the main village square. Between the eighteenth and nineteenth century the new cultural and secular awareness of the Enlightenment was born and immediately spread in the most important centres, even though it found it hard to penetrate the smaller communities where, on the opposite, the congregation came nearer the Parish which ended up by getting the only cultural centre. As a matter of fact, the many priests in the Parishes devoted themselves to literacy deeds, through which also the clergy thought was conveyed. On the one hand the religious consciousness took stable roots in the parish environment which depended on Post-Tridentine schemes but around which a devotional life and a deep social practice developed; on the other hand the meeting points of civil life consolidate more slowly, even because of the rapid changes which were taking place.

With the decay of the Republic of Veneto and the coming of the French people, we were faced to the attempt of rationalising the political-administrating institutions and adapting them to the territory. So the old "quadra" was replaced by new divisions, such as departements, districts and commons as per French model.

On the 9th July 1897 the Serio department was founded which, in the following February, assumed its definitive form including Val Seriana, Val Brembana, Canonica, Val di Scalve, Val San Martino and the whole plain spreading from Fontanella as far as Rivolta: Lake Sebino and the River Oglio in the east and the River Adda in the west were the natural borders of the department. The district was divided at first into 24 cantons and later on into 17.

The chief town of the 11th canton was Chignolo, which was also a point of reference for the villages of the deep Bergamask island.

Further news of Chignolo were provided by the historian and politician Giovanni Maironi from Ponte about the passage of the territory under the Austrians starting from 1816; he mentioned the remains of Roncalli palace and described Chignolo as a village of 900 inhabitants rich in crops and mulberry-trees.

The whole 19th century was a period of civil and political foundation by which the community found in the city state its centre of aggregation and of administrative organisation again.

Chignolo was one of the 24 villages of the Austrian district and became one of the villages of the administrative district of Bergamo, district of Ponte s. Pietro since 1860.

The Italian Unit was seen at first hostilely, then the stabilisation of the political situation led to an increasing balancing of the relationship between the catholic and farm culture of villages and the secular and liberal culture. Indeed, the conflict was never overcome completely even because the rise of social problems opened further fronts where to challenge and other ideologies with which to be confronted.

The birth of a social consciousness in a country world towards the end of the century was an important event also encouraged by schooling.

The institution of school was a fundamental matter even if oppositions and abandonment of school ended up by decreasing the possibility of cultural and professional growth. The knowledge often remained the one learnt traditionally and didn't go beyond the technique learnt with a millenary poor and submitted job.

The coming of the Fascist Regime in Chignolo is recollected because it proposed, in 1927, the administrative unification of the villages of Chignolo and Madone, which was called Centrisola. It was the utmost attempt to make the deep myth of the island live again, whose ideal centre was Chignolo, a village a little bit aloof from the greatest ways of communication and supported by a poor country culture and a deep and sensitive soul. The myth of Centrisola will be swept away by the several experiences and events occurred in the last few ten years.

When the isolating period was over thanks to the coming of the new ways and means of communication, when the eighteenth/nineteenth-century appearance of the original urban nucleus was cancelled by new living spaces, when country works were mostly replaced by industrial or handcraft activities, the community began to ask itself about its own identity. Even the definitive opening to the wider culture of towns and of the incipient European civility didn't solve problems completely, although the coming of modern school structures and the new high-level cultural initiatives burnt out in a few years secular distances and lacks.

Now advanced urban and social paths are sought, which are often occasions for growth and meeting.

But progress and development also demanded a moment of pause and thoughtfulness where the recovery of its own identity and its own historical memory becomes an important moment of comparison.

## **2. Town-planning order and territory**

Chignolo d'isola is placed in the heart of the Island, of which it vaguely imitates the form of a triangle with the tip downwards. In 1928 Chignolo was unified to Madone and got the name of Centrisola just to underline the central place among the River Adda, the River Brembo and Mount Canto.

In a clockwise direction Chignolo borders on Terno, Bonate Sopra, Bonate Sotto, Madone, Bottanuco, Suisio and Medolago.

Although the territory is placed in a plain, it also offers small hollows and rivers and seems to be laid down on a wide terrace.

The rivers crossing the territory are the Dordo, the Grandone, the Buliga and the Bulighetto.

The village of Chignolo lies decentralised if compared with the great traffic lines which, especially in old times, led from ports on the River Brembo near Bergamo to the ports on the River Adda in Capriate and in Villa d'Adda.

Nevertheless, just because of its central position, the territory was crossed by a thick net of secondary roads which connected the different villages of the island. The present road system largely imitates the old one, with irregular and winding lines even of main roads.

### **2.1. Historical buildings**

#### **2.1.1. The Roncalli Palace**

The Roncalli Palace - Residence of the nobility with U-plan.

"the palace of deliciousness of the above praised noble family....shows how once upon a time this village was fortified with a castle as fashion"

So did Giovanni Maironi write at the beginning of the nineteenth century, when the earls Roncalli, noble family coming from Roncaglia of Cepino in Val Imagna, carried out a fundamental modification of the building risen on the basis of an old castle already existing in the 12 century.

Since then, the palace had had to appear as a austere building, all closed around a courtyard and partially surrounded by gardens. Adjoining was an oratory dedicated to St. Peter of Alcatara.

The rooms were richly decorated to celebrate the family pomp with some of the most beautiful frescos in the Bergamask territory.

During the XVIII and XIX century the Roncalli family had the palace restored which was in most part demolished, and only the southern side was kept.

The western side wasn't rebuilt in order that from the central body you could overlook the whole Bedesco.

To the Chignolo Palace all those buildings were adjoined which were necessary to manage a large property, from the wine-press to the spinning-mill, from the drying-room for cereals to a large farm with spacious barns placed between the palace and the old parish Church, at the slope limits. Even today you can admire some rooms painted in frescos and recently restored, with works, among others, of Giovan Battista Botticchio, one of the most important representatives of the painting school in Crema of 1600.

### **2.1.2. The Churches**

Chignolo d'Isola boasts four churches in hits history which have accompanied the religious life of population throughout the centuries.

In one report written on occasion of the pastoral Visit of the Bishop of Bergamo in 1535, St. Mary's Church is described as placed "in the centre of the built-up area and of sufficient width for the population". Nevertheless St. Mary's was not the Parish Church. The actual parish Church was St. Peter's in Campis, a small building standing on a field called St. Peter's in Campis till now (today the cemetery).

As time passed, this Church was increasingly abandoned by people, who used it only now and then for the celebration of St. Peter's feast.

Even St. Mary's was later on replaced by the Sanctuary (of which it occupied the current consecrated ground) after about two centuries since it couldn't contain the population any longer which counted 250 inhabitants in 1535 and about twice in 1700.

In 1746 St. Mary's was demolished and its choir transformed into the Horatory of St. Rocco, later on called of the Addolorata (part of the building against the belfry).

The Sanctuary, which in the meantime had become parish Church, was embellished and adorned thanks to people's generosity: worth mentioning the Serassi's organ, the vestments, the decoration of "forty-eight hours" and the pictures.

But the population was growing and the church was becoming too small.

So they decided to build a new building. In 1870 the project was approved and 15 years later the "new Church" was ended in its general structure. It was definitely opened to worship in 1886.

### **2.1.3. Fountains**

From an architectural point of view, the style of the two peripheral fountains in Chignolo is a light and elegant baroque; therefore they could date back to the second half of 18th century. It is thought that the fountains were required by the noble family of Roncalli in order to provide their people with water and public slop sink.

Such fountains were planned not only for domestic uses and irrigation purposes, but also for washing, as proved by their geometric form.

The fountains are made of "botticino" marble, which is very similar to the calcareous one from Zandobbio from which it differs because of the presence of fossils. The fountain of Roncalli street has got two bathtubs, one parallel to the other, and with the front modelled by inferior and superior volutes turned towards the smaller bathtub.

In the fountain of XXV April street the two bathtubs are, on the contrary, opposite with the main panel in the middle, modelled as concentric circles and turned towards the smaller bathtub.

The vertical panel is the geometric and ornamental element which distinguishes the two fountains and it is ornate on both sides even if the main front has got more relief. Both bathtubs of the two fountains communicate by means of some linking holes.

## 2.2. Position and distances from the main sights

Chignolo d'Isola lies in the middle of the Bergamsk island, a strip of ground surrounded by two river: the Brembo and the Adda. It is almost 15 Km far away from the town of Bergamo and about 50 from Milan.

It lies at the foot of the Prealpi in a baricentral position in the North of Italy; Chignolo is quite equidstantial from some known touristic destinations.

Please find here below some distances which may help to locate geographically our village:

### LAKES:

- **Lake Maggiore**
- Angera                    100 km
- Stresa                    123 km
  
- **Lake Como**
- Como                    46 km
- Lecco                    30 km
- Menaggio    54 km
- Bellagio                48 km
- Lake of Endine    43 km
- **Lake Iseo:**
- Sarnico                40 km
- Iseo                    53 km
- Lovere                54 km

### SEAS:

- **Adriatic Sea:**
- Rimini                    374 km
- Riccione                380 km
- Lignano Sabbiadoro    324 km
- **Ligure Sea:**
- Portofino                216 km
- Santa Margerita Ligure    214 km
- Viareggio                97 km
- Bordighera                330 km

### VALLEYS AND ALPINE VILLAGES:

- **Val Seriana:**
- Clusone                    52 km
- Scalve Valley:

- Schilpario 79 km
- Vilminore di Scalve 70 km
- **Val Brembana:**
- San Pellegrino Terme 28 km
- Foppolo 59 km
- **Valtellina:**
- Morbegno 82 km
- Sondrio 135 km
- **Val Gardena:**
- Ortisei 287 km
- Selva di Val Gardena 294 km
- **Val di Fassa:**
- Vigo di Fassa 280 km

#### TOURISTIC TOWNS:

- Milan 50 km
- Pavia 91 km
- Verona 128 km
- Turin 178 km
- Mantua 132 km
- Trent 212 km
- Ferrara 226 km
- Venice 237 km
- Bologna 252 km

## 3. Environment

Thanks to its middle position in a homogeneous territory called island, Chignolo was chosen as meeting point of the consuls of the 23 villages of the Quadra, who decided there matters of general interest, although it never boasted being a chief town.

The highest measures of the Chignolo territory are 3500 m. of width and 2250 of length, with an extended surface of about 5,29 sqkm. One optimistic person called once an almost invisible protuberance of the ground Mount Orphan. Actually, those who come to Chignolo from Terno or Bonate can see the houses and the Churches of Chignolo a little bit higher than the surrounding country. If you well observed, you can notice that houses stand on the border of a wide terrace covered by woods which try to hide the

difference of 10-15 m. from the ground below.

It is a wide terrace which split from the Mount Canto near Mapello, laps Terno, crosses vertically all the territory of Chignolo, reaches Rodi and gradually fades away in the country of Grignano.

The ground is composed of compact layers of clay, with few rocks, which instead are abundant in the alluvial plain in the East of Buliga. What is interesting is that, except for the large plain towards the River Adda, the rest of this tableland was left uncultivated for centuries and was called Bedesco from Carvico, Sotto il Monte and Terno down to San Fermo in Grignano.

By observing the various altimetric heights in the IGM (Military geographic institute) maps, you can realise that the height on the sea level gradually and constantly decrease from 241 at the borders with Terno and Medolago to 204 at the borders with Madone, in the Muggiò zone.

It is worth mentioning the several rivers which flow throughout the territory, without dwelling upon the Dordo which only laps a part of the south-east border. The Buliga is of great interest since it crosses vertically the whole municipal territory, flowing at the foot of the Bedesco, to which it has adapted its bed throughout millenniums. In the last few years, in order to avoid any dangerous risks, such as erosion or overflowing, the Drainage Cooperative of the Bergamo's Middle Plain has carried out important hydraulic works in the urban centre, in Brolo and in Via Don Bosco. The stream which flows into the Dordo, just after leaving the territory of Chignolo, is generated by some insignificant brooks going down from the southern side of the Mount Canto and by some small channels from the Bedesco. Just above Chignolo, it receives the waters from a small brook which originates between Carvico and Sotto il Monte, collecting the drainage waters from some parts of the Bedesco; therefore it is called strainer Somma or Bulighetto in old maps. This river encountered some corrugations of the ground in Chignolo near the borders with Terno and Medolago. Consequently it had to open a narrow passage towards the Buliga. Even the Grandone originates from Mount Canto, on the side of Villa d'Adda and crosses a long part of Bedesco where, just above Baccanello, it has dug a small and plain valley which closes again just where the stream flows into the Buliga at the south of Chignolo, thus creating the wedge ("cuneo") which gives the name to the village. Finally there is the Rio Zender which is born between Amati square and Bianchina farm-house and whose bed marks the border with Suisio. This stream is usually dry at the beginning and then is fed only by the drainage waters from the part of Bedesco that it crosses. In the well irrigated plain, throughout the centuries a thick net of channels was dug to bring water to all land. Almost every field was surrounded by little channels and ditches, usually empty. With careful and repeated works, the land sweetly degraded towards one or more sides,

avoiding the stagnation of the waters coming from rains, drainage and springs. The enclosed roads, which are called "cavedagne" somewhere else in the North, are still a peculiarity of a wide zone of Bedesco between Medolago and Suisio, and in the North of Chignolo, along the present Via Galilei which is connected with the provincial road Terno-Medolago. This road, which is much lower than the adjoining fields, is joined by several paths, which are very enclosed and with hillocks. They could make water flow half towards the main road and half towards the Grandone or the Buliga.

In the northernmost part of the municipal territory, included between the border with Medolago and Via Galilei, the country is flat for a long stretch and the net of "cavedegne" isn't very visible. Maybe for this reason some fields were called "al laghetto" (by the little lake) and still in the eighteenth century someone stated to own here some marshy land. Now, the several agricultural requirements have partly cancelled this old landscape, which was unique in the province of Bergamo. It isn't by chance that most parts of Bedesco hardly drain away rainwater. In the East of the Buliga the soil is much more sandy and gravely and consequently more permeable; therefore it doesn't require such a complex land reclamation works. To ensure the irrigation of cultivations especially in times of summer draughts, in 2002 the land reclamation Cooperative of the Middle Plain of Bergamo provided a installation for rain irrigation.

### **3.1. Let's clean the world**

The local authority Ecology and Public Education departments of Chignolo d'Isola organize every year the traditional world ecological day "Let's clean the world".

This manifestation involves students of the second and third class of primary school together with their teachers and the Ecological guards of the province of Bergamo.

As usually, the day begins with the presentation of the initiative "Let's clean the world" promoted by Legambiente.

Boys and girls together with their teachers and relatives wear their uniform (hat, bag and yellow gloves) and with enthusiasm and willingness they clean gardens and public places in our village.

At the end of the day these willing young people are fed by the Administration through the Association "Don Bosco" who is involved as well in this kind of initiatives.

The primary school teachers are given a Cd-Rom containing the pictures taken throughout the ecological day.

The Municipal authorities want to go on promoting such initiatives with proposals to teachers and reserved to children, in order to make them more sensitive to problems related to the environment and nature.

## **4. Sport**

### **4.1. Sport in Chignolo**

Sport is an important and healthy occasion for physical activity and for meeting new people, especially for young people. Associations deals with this field and make their contribution to the community.

Associations and Voluntary service are a wealth and an important resource for all community, both for the idea and organization of sport and for the involvement of the citizens in their activities. The administration of Chignolo d'isola directly cooperates with Associations and voluntary service by creating and putting the most suitable structures at disposal of the whole population.

### **4.2. Sports facilities**

The territory of Chignolo d'isola offers sports centres which are either municipal or private, but for public use.

Such facilities, described hereunder, have recently been linked with the historical centre of Chignolo by means of panoramic stairs, just to let people reach the sport centre easier without bumping into traffic jam.

Furthermore a new parking has been built near the stairs as service for the sports centre.

#### **4.2.1. Primary school gym – Roncalli Street**

Even though built in 1982, the building is still perfectly functioning and in compliance with norms. It belongs to the primary school but it is also attended by the Association "Polisportiva Chignolese" for Basket and Volley matches.

This association runs the centre together with the municipal authority. The councillor of sports organizes courses of aerobics and gymnastic for adults and children. The gym s equipped for volley, basket, soccer, tennis, handball, free gymnastic with different apparatus. It is provided with double changing-rooms and a changing room for referees and with a 150 seat stand.

#### **4.2.2. Sports centre – Picasso Street**

The centre was built in 2002 in a zone next to the secondary school and to the Cultural Centre with the cinema. The structure is made of a polyvalent indoor ground provided with heating where you can play soccer, volley, tennis or simply watching matches on the 80 seat stand. The changing-room are located in the adjoining gym of the secondary school. The centre is run by the association "Polisportiva Chignolese – Calcetto section". Next to the polyvalent centre you can find the bowl ground. Even this structure is in-door and completed of heating, which allows its use throughout the year. It is the ideal meeting point for the so-called "no longer young" people, who, besides playing their favourite game, also have the possibility to meet other people and make friends, maybe playing cards in the bar run by voluntaries. Even this centre is run by the "Polisportiva Chignolese – section bowl club".

#### **4.2.3. Secondary School Gym – Picasso Street**

The centre is located in the secondary school and used by students for gym and volley activities. Out of school times, the gym is attended by adults during the gym courses organized by the Sports committee.

#### **4.2.4. Parish football grounds in Manzoni Street**

The centre consists of a regular grass 11-ground and a sand 7-ground. It is completed with a building which houses the changing-rooms, storing rooms and the social seat of the "Polisportiva Chignolese". A covered stand with about 200 seats is available for audience.

The centre also has got at its disposal outer areas which are often used for popular festivals and concerts organized by the "Polisportiva Chignolese". The centre is owned by the Parish but led by the Public Administration and run by the Polisportiva Chignolese.

#### **4.2.5. Isola Swimming Pool – Galilei Street**

In these sports facilities, private but for public use (known as Hare Krishna village), swimming courses for adults and children are organized, besides the possibility to practise free swimming.

Swimming isn't the only activity offered by this facility which gives also the possibility to attend gym courses in water and sessions for the muscle recovery and massages.

The public use of this private structure, founded thanks to the approval of the municipal administration, is regulated by a convention signed in 1999 which foresees also discounts for Chignolo inhabitants.

The discount, which is permanent and equal to 5%, may also increase to 30% for primary and secondary school classes of Chignolo d'Isola.

## **5. ASSOCIATIONS**

### **5.1. “Don Bosco” voluntary association**

The “Don Bosco” voluntary association has been operating on the territory since the eighties. It is constituted by a group of people who have decided to devote their spare time to solidarity towards less lucky families or people in difficulty.

This association works together with the Municipal administration which gives it a contribute following a series of services it gives to the community.

It is a no-profit association which destines the gain of its activities to social needs of the territory. The Organization not only runs the meeting room for people needing company, but also arranges parties for birthdays, First Communion, and so on.

Furthermore, different groups exist in Chignolo:

“Il gruppo verde” (the green group) takes care of the room that the Municipal Administration gave to it and of some green areas, such as the gardens of the primary and secondary school, where it regularly cuts the grass and lops trees.

The “Gruppo Vigilanza” (the vigilance group) gives its service at the primary school where the voluntaries watch children crossing the road both at the beginning and at the end of the lessons. Moreover, they also watch the traffic jam on occasion of processions and parades.

The group "Il filo che ti lega" (The binding thread) provides a telephonic service to all people who feel lonely or left apart because in difficulty (green number.....complete with telephone secretary). The voluntaries speak much with such people and regularly pay them a visit to bring them a bit comfort and relief. Thanks to their engagement and generosity, they try to keep company and help all those people who risk being emarginated because of some illness or other problems.

In the year 2000 the association aimed at buying a suitable vehicle for driving old or disabled people to hospital or public offices. Finally in February 2003 the Association reached its purpose thanks to the great work of their voluntaries. This service is completely free of charge and carried out by the voluntaries who make themselves at disposal for driving.

This association has always much work to do, but it is very proud to be able to help people and its target is to achieve more and more ambitious results in the social field.

We remind you that for anything they may need, our citizens can contact us at the telephone number 035 905629 from 13.30 to 22.00 on every workday.

## **5.2. Musical corps "Santa Eurosia"**

In 1925 the priest A.Villa collected about thirty young people gifted for music in a room of the parish oratory. He invited Teacher Rodolfo Cavenaghi who taught them theory and solfeggio and Teacher E. Giudici for instrumental practice. So, after a short time, people in Chignolo could begin to hear the joyful notes of the Chignolo band. As years passed, the band managed to gain public acclaim even out of the provincial borders.

Worth mentioning is the musical carousel which took place at the Municipal Stadium in Turin in July 1985, where Lombardy was represented by the Musical Corps of Chignolo. In the year 1992 the band gained much success in Alicante (Spain) on occasion of St. John's Holiday, where different musical and folk corps from all Europe were present. 1994 it was invited to Rome for a concert in the quarter of St. Alexander. In the year 1996 the band went beyond the national boundaries to exhibit itself in a concert in Izola (Slovenia). Neither can we forget the several humanitarian and social interventions: "30 hours for life", "Telethon" and other manifestations at local level. At the moment the band is trained and directed by Teacher Illari Roberto, who has increased the quality of its repertory very much.

The band of Chignolo supports itself by its own funds, the contributions received are used to buy instruments, uniforms and musical scores.

### **5.3. Sports club**

The Sports Club "San Giovanni Bosco" is operative on the village territory and together with the Municipal Administration, runs the sports facilities listed below:

- primary school municipal gym;
- secondary school municipal gym;
- municipal sports centre polyvalent ground;
- municipal sports centre bowl centre;
- parish football ground.

The sports club "Chignolese" consists of the following sports sections:

- football section (11 players);
- football section (7 players);
- volleyball section;
- bowls section;
- basket section.

#### **5.3.1. Football section (11 players)**

The football section is run by the club F.C. Isola, which has recently been born by the fusion of the football section of the Polisportiva Chignolese and the AURORA of Terno d'Isola. This union has permitted to fuse the organizing and structural resources to develop the young sector. This is the main target at which the F.C. ISOLA is aiming and actually the goal has been reached. As a matter of fact there are 10 teams belonging to the young sector and composed by children from 6 (football school) to 18 (Juniors). Such a result couldn't have been possible without such union.

In order to provide a complete sports education, coaches are supported by ISEF trainers. Furthermore a means of transport has been put at disposal for the young people who have to move from one football ground to the other, since half of the teams play on the ground in Chignolo, and the other half on the ground of Terno.

In order to develop the potentialities of the young sectors, the recent federal rules have made the use of the young players in the first team compulsory. Greatest thanks go to the leaders of the two original clubs, who with farsightedness, courage and capacity has managed to start this brand new experience which has already been getting much success. This union

wasn't conceivable till short time ago considered the parochialism which always distinguished the two villages.

The teams enrolled in the different championships are:

- Scuola calcio
- Pulcini F.I.G.C.
- Pulcini sper. F.I.G.C.
- Esordienti B prov. F.I.G.C.
- Esordienti A prov. F.I.G.C.
- Giovanissimi B prov. F.I.G.C.
- Giovanissimi A prov. F.I.G.C.
- Allievi prov. F.I.G.C.
- Juniores regionali F.I.G.C.
- Promozione

### **5.3.2. Football section (7 players)**

With the new polyvalent ground of the Municipal Sports centre in via Picasso, even this section has found a better collocation for the athletic activities of the three teams present on the territory. In particular two teams are entered for the provincial championship C.S.I. and one team for the regional championship F.I.G.C. series D, with a total of about 40 members.

The ground is at disposal even of outer teams and, upon booking, it is also used by citizens of Chignolo who sometimes arranges amateur matches.

The place is also exploited by the children of Scuola Calcio, who has the possibility to follow their training in a more comfortable environment.

### **5.3.3. Bowls club**

Thanks to the brand new municipal bowl lane, the interest of the citizens in this sport has increased and, more and more often, it has also been an occasion of meeting and aggregation. The availability of this centre has given the right stimulus to the Bowl section of the Polisportiva Chignolese to take part in competitions.

With the renewal of the provision of membership cards in F.I.B., about thirty athletes have been registered, who have created new internal norms for the management of the sports section and have elected the new Directive Council of the Bowl club.

### **5.3.4. Volleyball section**

The volley activities take place in the municipal gym of the primary school.

Besides the minivolley lessons for the children of the primary school, there are some young teams, both women and men, and a women's team who plays in the regional Championship series D.

Volleyball requires a hard physical training and is a group sport where you win thanks to the harmony of the team and not to the capacity of every single element.

The teams registered for the different championships are:

- Minivolley
- Under 13 (women)
- Under 17 (women)
- Under 18 (men)
- Series D (women)

### **5.3.5. Basket section**

The recently born basket section consists of a men's team playing in the C.S.I. provincial championship.

Basket can be considered a complete sport, it may be easy and amusing, but also difficult and tiring. It is based on the movement and all players must participate actively.

### **5.3.6. Maintaining gym**

The sports committee organizes lessons of maintaining gym in the gym of the primary school. By means of pleasant and easy exercises, you can eliminate tensions and pains, improve motor organization, coordination and functionality. Lessons are open to everybody.

### **5.3.7. Rhythmical gymnastic**

This course was founded by the Sports committee together with the Gym section of the Polisportiva of Brembate Sopra. The course, held by a qualified I.S.E.F. trainer, aims at approaching children to this discipline, promoting the progressive control of motor behaviour, improving coordination and making the body expression finer by dance, music and small apparatus.

The course also foresees competitions and demonstrative displays.

We are grateful to all people that, with their passion and seriousness, have been working so hard to get such important results in sports. Such people are necessary in small villages like ours to create the conditions to maintain and increase a right sports culture.

## 5.4. Alpini group

The Alpini group in Chingolo d'Isola was born in 1955 during a festival in which the Alpines Paganelli Angelo and Angioletti Luigi were taking part ( they had a leave from their military service). After the parade the two alpinists were received by Earl Guido Roncalli and invited to a reception where they met a captain, alpine too, named Facchinetti Giacomo (at that time municipal secretary), who spurred them on to found an Alpine group in our town. The first group chief was Facchinetti Giacomo himself, born 1896, who kept his charge till 1960 attracting many new alpinists returning from the wars 15/18 and 40/45.

The other group chiefs have been (in chronological order): Bonasio Italo from 1960 to 1970, Cavagno Giacomo from 1971 to 1981, Paganelli Angelo from 1981 to 1991, Bonalumi Fabrizio from 1992 to 1999, Perico Maurizio from 1999 to 2000 and Esposito Alessandro from 2000 till now.

The group took part and is still taking part in several manifestations and interventions; remember the intervention to support the earthquake victims in Friuli, the flood victims in Alessandria and many other interventions, such as the cleaning of streams and various social activities in favour of our community.

It is worth mentioning a milestone of the Alpini group: Mr. Perico Giuseppe who gave a considerable contribution to this association.

The pennant which is being used now was consecrated 1960 on occasion of the first Alpine feast in Chignolo d'Isola. Other feasts took place which were very important moments of meeting and union for Chignolo: among others, the feast in 1965, in 1999, 2000 and 2002.

In 2005 the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alpini Group will be celebrated.

## 5.5. Photogroup

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 1998 some friends with the passion for photography founded the "Gruppo Fotografico Chignolese".

Even though working in a small village, our association aims at achieving its best in the photographic arts.

We think it very important to meet altogether to discuss about photography and especially to face each other from a practical point of view:

- With the projection of slides
- Photographic excursions
- Visits to shows
- Participations to competitions, etc.

We consider this is the best way to grow and together and improve.

At the moment our group is made of 21 members.  
From now on you can find our website at the address  
<http://digilander.libero.it/gfoto.chignolese/index.htm>

## **6. Education and spare time**

Public school education in Chignolo is performed in two buildings dedicated one to primary and the other to secondary education of students.

### **6.1. Primary school**

The building housing the primary school is traditional and includes wide spaces used as informatics labs, music room, image education rooms; one room is also reserved for the school canteen. Moreover, there is an equipped gym which is used also for the extraschool sports activities by the people of Chignolo and of the neighbouring villages.

### **6.2. Secondary school**

The secondary school, on the contrary, is housed by a more modern building; as for primary school students, secondary students can find here special spaces: laboratories for technical and artistic education, for informatics, for sciences, canteen rooms, gym. As a completion of the sports education, the school can count on the new polyvalent ground lying next to it.

### **6.3. Cultural centre**

As support of the cultural activities of our citizens, of schools and of the villages in the whole Isola Bergamasca, Chignolo d'Isola boasts a cultural centre which is of primary importance thanks to a new room equipped for both theatre representations and for concert and cinema activities which spread throughout winter and spring.

The new theatre has got 350 seats and, since built inside the school sports centre, can take advantage of all necessary facilities (included a bar and a room for restoration).

### **6.4. Library**

The cultural world in Chignolo rotates around the Municipal Library. Even though it belongs to a small village, it counts over 8000 books, besides services of borrowing and consultancy, borrowing between libraries, provincial data base, borrowing and consultancy of papers and magazines (at the

moment you can find "La macchina del tempo", "Quattroruote", "Travel", "In moto", "Il Giornalino", "Il Corriere della Sera"), bibliography information, internet, besides a sector for the young supplied with videos.