

Hilltop News



August & September 2017



Summer fun in the sun

The sun shone, the band played, the sausages and burgers sizzled, the beer and Pimms flowed and the people came in their droves to the annual St Leonards Parish Hall Fete. For the second year running we enjoyed fine weather which helped bring in more visitors and raise welcome funds for the Parish Hall.

Also in blazing June, the Village Picnic, organized for a third time by the Commons Preservation Society, working with the Cricket Club, provided another enjoyable event for families.

We look ahead now to our next village show – the annual Churches' Fete on Bank Holiday Monday – see you there!

A 'thank you' from the team

In June the Hilltop News team hosted a 'drinks and canapes' party at Cholesbury Village Hall for all the people who help keep our parish magazine going. So the team was able to meet the advertisers, without whose revenue we wouldn't be able to deliver the magazine free to nearly 600 households; the distributors, who deliver to our houses and the contributors, who regularly send the editor material for inclusion. We are hugely grateful to you all!

It was a very happy couple of hours and the HTN Team hope the overwhelming buzz of conversation and laughter was indicative of everyone's continued willingness to be a part of this successful publication.



Fun for all at the Fete?

In this issue:

TLC at our local vineyard...

Born into the film industry...

Jean Pope and Jim Fulks remembered

Plus our regular features...

Chris Brown gauges the return of two top predators

Our Curvaceous Cook serves up something quick and tasty for summer

...plus all the news from our churches, school, pubs, clubs, councils and societies.

Cover picture:

Pulling together! Young and old alike make the annual St Leonards Fete another successful occasion.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has been busy these last couple of months with the usual fodder of either overseeing or managing hedges, grass, footpaths, planning applications and enforcement matters and, of course, the ever-persistent matter of our highways. We have been able to support the cricket club with a donation towards the new nets, which will benefit many in the parish, young and old alike (and in between!) and have begun involvement in an airspace consultation, with regard to the potential expansion at Heathrow, which could have consequences for the level of air traffic flying over the Hilltops.

Progress with roads (apart from improved efficiency in filling potholes, I note) continues to be slow. Despite attendance at the April meeting of the council by two senior figures within TfB, no progress has been made with our 'roads of concern' (i.e. Rays Hill, Horseblock, Jenkins Lane) but the councillors continue to press and will escalate the issue even further, if necessary. Hopefully, by the time you read this, work should have started on The Vale. Fingers crossed!

There are now one and a half plots available at the allotments, should anyone be interested. Rent is £25.00 per annum for a whole plot and £12.50 for half a plot.

Any queries regarding the Parish please contact...

Hayley Lewis, Clerk to the Council, 758843 parishclerk.ccsipc@gmail.com

Your councillors are:

John Allen, Chairman: 758095
Nigel Blomfield, 758314
Chris Brown, 758890
Philip Matthews, 758205
John Minting, 758206
Francis Sanger, 758767
Judith Joseph: 758702

Making food recycling simpler

In a move to make food waste recycling even easier, plastic bags can now be used by householders to line their kitchen caddy for the weekly collection. These include freezer and sandwich bags, supermarket carriers, pedal bin liners and the bags that salad, bread and cereal are bought in.

This change - taking place in the Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe District Council areas - is set to increase the volume of food waste sent for treatment.

Previously, compostable bags were the only type of bag allowed in food recycling. However, we have been working with the operators of the plant, and they are now able to accept other kinds of bags too. The bags are all separated from the food when it is delivered to the plant, and the food waste is then processed, creating renewable electricity, and at the end of the process the digested food waste gets spread onto land as a nutrition-rich fertiliser.

The Southern Districts, working with Buckinghamshire County Council, made this move after receiving feedback from residents saying that having to buy compostable bags was a barrier which tended to prevent them recycling their food waste. Using plastic bags and newspaper should encourage greater participation of the weekly food waste collection.

Full information can be found on the Council's website:
www.chiltern.gov.uk/foodwaste

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THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Six weeks into my term as Chairman has reinforced my appreciation of the talents and ingenuity of people across Bucks. I attended the Bucks & Milton Keynes School Games level 3 Festival at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, where 1500 finalists were treated to an Olympic style opening ceremony with displays of gymnastics and dancing by talented young athletes. The whole ethos was respect for fellow competitors and a determination to win. They were given a taste of competing internationally by Olympic stars and an understanding of the challenges ahead.

Bucks New University celebrated its 125th Anniversary in the State Rooms, Speaker's House this week and at a surprisingly select gathering I learnt a lot about the history of High Wycombe Technical and Arts School which opened in 1891 and finally received university status in 2007.

A couple of days later I was invited to Parents Day at Pipers Corner School at which Aled Jones was a hilarious guest speaker as he regaled the parents with entirely different anecdotes from those he illustrated for the girls. Having completed a really impressive afternoon, laced with singing and dancing from the girls, he left on a Harley Davidson to get to Leeds Castle for his next engagement.

Milton Keynes Ethnic Arts fair gave a flavour of India, complete with a typical multi-decorated bus with Quetta number plates, masses of music and a long yarn about coffee being a great conduit for bringing people of all faiths together through dialogue.

However, the annual reception at RAF High Wycombe probably topped the bill in terms of a thrill. The RAF band marched in



playing the Dambusters March on a peerless summer evening, with a Hurricane fly-past to the strains of 'The Day Thou Gavest Lord Has Ended'. Rob Woods, the Commanding Officer, told me that it had required a lot of preparation to get the plane in on cue!

Finally, I am invited by the Buckinghamshire Rifles to the annual camp visit at Beckingham Training Camp (Lincolnshire), where the Lord Lieutenant says we may get to fire live ammunition!

As usual I have been out and about regularly with Transport for Bucks deciding which roads to repair next. Finally they recognise that the road network in this Division is a one-off in terms of few main roads but many rural roads with little substructure, many of which are hectic in the rush hour. I have attended most of the Parish Council meetings and met and discussed matters of concern including planning issues with local businesses, speeding and school transport.

Please let me know if I can talk to officers at County Hall on your behalf.

*Tricia Birchley 01296 651823
pbirchley@buckscc.gov.uk*

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HAWRIDGE AND CHOLESBURY C OF E SCHOOL

The Battle of the Books competition has been enjoyed with the children reading from a large selection of books chosen by their teachers and then having a morning, in their house teams, to answer questions on the books.

This year's school production for the children of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 was entitled Shakespeare Rocks and included seven songs which had the children in full voice. The production was a fresh, funny and up-to-date look at the life and times of William Shakespeare, with a cast of historical characters, and glimpsed into some of his works. It was based around a director of the 'Rough Shakespeare Company' who comes across what appears to be Shakespeare's lost diary and then, along with his down-to-earth assistant, embarks on a modern adaptation of his personal life.

The children from Years 5 and 6 had a week-long residential in Sussex which was a wonderful experience for them all. They partook in many activities, some for the first time, and were full of stories of their achievements on their return. Fit 4Fun week was another success this year. The week involved morning 'Wake and Shake' classes for children and parents alike, a cricket day supported by professional coaches, masses of fruit and veg platters each morning and, of course, Sports Day; which had to be condensed into an afternoon with rain forecast for the morning. Over the week lessons were themed around healthy living, including what we eat and drink, personal hygiene, exercise and healthy minds.

The Outdoor Cathedral was officially opened and blessed by the Archdeacon Guy Elsemere. Parents were invited to join the children in a service which included the school orchestra and choir performing and

a number of readings from the children.

At the Chesham Carnival in June the school had a float superbly decorated by a dedicated group of parents. The theme for this year was 'Fairy Tales' and from a list of tales we were given The Little Mermaid. The float was themed around King Triton and Ursula the sea witch with children dressed as many of the characters including Ariel, Sebastian, Flounder and the two evil eels. All the work obviously paid off as the school came joint first!

Year 2 have been incubating chicken eggs and were open mouthed when they came in to school to discover four healthy chicks had hatched. They all had the opportunity to hold one of them and have been fascinated by their antics. Year 2 also released a number of trout that they have been looking after into the River Chess with the help of a local environmental company. Not only was this a success but the class were also awarded with a trophy for nurturing the most trout, beating five other local schools – including two secondary schools.

Over the term, topics included transport, Australia, Around the World, the Stone Age to the Iron Age, electricity, World War 2 and the Ancient Maya.

As the school year ended 'Moving-up Day' has seen the children going to their new classrooms and meeting their new teachers. Year 6 went to their new schools whilst the new Windmills reception children were welcomed for a full afternoon. Children finished off with a school disco, a leavers assembly for the Year 6 children – some of whom have been there for the full seven years – and a Film Club night.

On behalf of all the staff at the school and all of the children, have a great summer.

James Morris

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS W.I.

The May meeting concentrated on discussing the two resolutions to be proposed and voted upon at the National AGM in Liverpool and it was good to welcome Claire from Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton WI to our June meeting. Claire was our delegate and she gave us an excellent account of her trip and said how much she had enjoyed the whole experience.

The resolutions had been debated and expert speakers had put forward the pros and cons for each one. In the event both were passed, with 'End Plastic Soup' having a large majority for, while that concerning Alleviating Loneliness reflected our expressed concern. There was a welcome from the Mayor of Liverpool; the speakers (Jo Fairley, co-founder of Green & Blacks, and Susie Dent from Countdown) were excellent; retiring President, Janice Langley, was given a standing ovation and to conclude the Echo Arena rocked to the sounds of the Mersey with The Retros, followed of course by 'Jerusalem'.

Our Speaker in June was Colin Lomas, who told us about William Morris and others associated with the Arts and Crafts Movement. By the time of our meeting the Fete at St Leonards had taken place. The Cake Stall and Teas had done very well and altogether it was a very successful event. More recently, six of our members visited the Medical Detection Dogs Centre at Great Horwood, where they were amazed by the demonstrations of the dogs' abilities and the stories from people who rely upon their dogs to alert them to potentially dangerous situations.

After our July Birthday meeting we shall meet again in August at the home of one of our members for an informal get-together. And in September two of our

members will be centre stage talking about and demonstrating 'Pizzas'. Let's hope that the summer weather continues and we look forward to welcoming even more new members to our meetings.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The latest Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter

reports that, as a result of patrolling villages surrounding Chesham, two men were arrested for stealing metal items from driveways with the intention of selling them for their scrap value. In Chesham and the surrounding area a rolling year's review of crime shows that incidents of robbery, burglary, theft and criminal damage have fallen while vehicle theft and violence against the person have risen. Recent arrests indicate that people have come in from out of the immediate area to commit crime and circumstances of many thefts suggest opportunism. Please be alert to any suspicious activities and ensure that vehicles are securely locked.

In an **emergency dial 999**, to report other incidents **dial 101**.

Shirley Blomfield (758314)



James Elliott Dip WCF
Farriery services



07933 563045
Jameselliottfarrier@gmail.com

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The Local History Group's popularity continues to rise:

membership of over 90 is a record. We also

welcomed many visitors to meetings over the past year. The LHG Committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support.



As I've said frequently before, the popularity of our meetings relies at least on finding interesting speakers with entertaining stories to tell. So hopefully we have come up with a quality selection of speakers and topics for the new season of talks starting in October.

We have an excellent talk to kick off the season on **Friday 6 October** which we hope will appeal to a large number of people: **'Call the Midwife'**. If you are wondering if this has anything to do with the well-known BBC drama of the same name, it does! Jennifer Worth's book, written in 2009 recalling her experiences as a midwife in the 1950s was the basis of the very successful television drama series. Jennifer was a local girl which adds to our interest in the story of her life. We are welcoming her husband Philip, and daughter Suzannah, who will tell us all about Jennifer in a unique but very moving way.

Our next meeting is on **Friday 3 November** when we will hear about **Anglo Saxon Treasure – Unravelling the Lenborough Hoards**. This was a unique discovery for Buckinghamshire and we are delighted to have **Dr Susan Fern**, who is Archivist for the nearby Buckingham Gaol Museum, to talk to us about this discovery, the research to date, and its implications for Buckinghamshire's history.

Both meetings take place at St Leonards Parish Hall. Please arrive at **8pm** for a prompt **8.15pm** start.

Other talks to come include **Buckinghamshire in the Civil War, The Russells and Chenies Palace and The History of John Lewis**.

For members and regular visitors we look forward to seeing you once again. If you are new to the area, have just not got around to coming along before, or for a while, why not visit one of our meetings: just £4 at the door?

Membership for the whole year is also great value – just £10 for adults and free for those 16 years and under. There are eight evening meetings, normally on the first Friday of the month, plus a newsletter, other member events and access to our archive of photographs and other material documenting the history of the houses, people and events in the Hilltop Villages – something for everyone to enjoy.

Chris Brown (758890)
email: localhistorygroup@cholesbury.com

SHORT MAT BOWLS at

St Leonards Parish Hall

Whether you play regularly or, wouldn't know a 'Wood' from a 'Fender', all are welcome!

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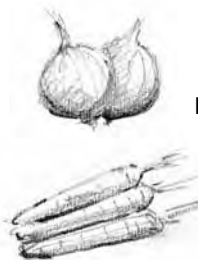


CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Saturday 2 September 2017 at 2.30 pm

Hawridge & Cholesbury C of E School, Hawridge Common

Admission – 50p for adults, children free

HOME MADE TEAS AND RAFFLE

Entry forms must be completed and delivered to the Show Secretary Roseanne Vince,
11 Sandpit Hill Cottages, Cholesbury HP23 6NF (01494 758764) with fees by
Wednesday 30 August

Class entrance fees: 20p per class for members of Hort Soc;
30p per class for non-members-children's entries are free

ENTRY FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAY BUT AT £1.00 PER CLASS

The School will be open at 8.30am for exhibitors to set up and all exhibits must be ready for judging by 10.15am. Vases will be provided for sweet pea and dahlia classes. The School show rooms will be cleared for judging at 10.30am.

PRIZES and TROPHIES will be awarded at 4.00pm approximately, followed by the raffle.

If you wish to join the Society the annual subscription of £2.00 is payable each September to the Secretary, Diana Garner, Montana, Shire Lane, Cholesbury HP23 6NA.



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY COMMONS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

This update is another double act shared with Lindsay, who has written a third instalment of her fascinating history of HCCPS in our 50th anniversary year.

This year, I think many of us are still reeling from the sudden and unseasonal changes in the weather so far – hot and cold at strange times – and mainly very dry, but with occasional stair-roads when least expected! However, we were all sent reeling again - in a good way - by the magnificent displays of foxgloves and other wild flowers that exploded on the Commons in May and June – particularly where the rides had been widened and trees cleared to let in the light.

We, your committee of volunteers, do our best to cope with the weather, the new growth and everything that goes with it, but we can't please everyone all the time. We are always open to constructive criticism, particularly when we are contacted personally with specific concerns. A few of you have made particular points recently that we have been pleased to address, including the incident of a mountain biker behaving very dangerously, and nearly causing a serious accident. Your feedback helps us to plan our work

and deal with anything that we may not immediately be aware of. So please keep it coming – my contact details are: phone: 01494 757102 or ddennis48@outlook.com

In particular, I want to thank Richard Bysouth, Steve Cheeld, Bill Waller and Martin Barber for their practical assistance recently. It is people like these that keep the environment looking good – in addition to all the hours that Isobel and the rest of the committee regularly put in, whether out on the Commons or, less visibly, at home. You know who you are!

Village Picnic

Phew – what a scorcher! However, the community responded splendidly by arriving with tents and gazebos for protection from the sun, so all was well. BURP played and sang their hearts out and the under 9s entertained us on the cricket pitch. A further musical interlude was provided by the Community Choir and a good time was had by all. Our thanks are due to Brian Ralphs and the Cricket Club committee for all their hard work; for opening the clubhouse and providing very welcome food and drink – a good example of the community in co-operative mode.



I'm going to close this part of our report with a couple of requests:

1. We want your photos as soon as possible! In particular, your shots of the Commons and the surrounding area. Next year's HCCPS calendar needs your input. As an innovation this year, the school children are taking part in a photo competition, and the winner – or winners – will have their work included in the calendar, alongside the winning entry in the Horticultural Society's special class. Please send your high-resolution images to lindsaygriffin@yahoo.co.uk
2. We need one or two more tractor drivers. We can train you, and will not require more from you than a spare hour or two - a few times during the summer months - when paths and rides need cutting. Our existing team do a great job, but they are busy people, and are not always available when we need them.

Finally, can I wish you all a very pleasant time in the remaining weeks of summer. Enjoy the Commons! ...David Dennis. Now, over to Lindsay . . .

HCCPS at 50

After the Society was formed, one of the most pressing tasks was to encourage those who had Commons Rights to register them. If they were not registered within three years of the Commons Registration Act of 1965 (i.e. by June 1968), those entitled to Commons Rights would lose them.

According to the Vestry Minutes of St. Mary's, Hawridge and St Laurence, Cholesbury, people who were assessed for a Poor Rate of £4 or more, were allowed to graze on the Commons one head of cattle, or one horse and one sow in addition for every £4 of their rate. There are of course other Rights of Common and a few properties in Hawridge and Cholesbury have rights such as Turbary (to dig peat or turf for fuel in the commoner's own house), Estover (to take timber for repairs or fuel for their own use) but, as there were few trees on the Commons, most rights were for grazing

(also known as Herbage).

Peter Knowles-Brown, Michael Harvey and Joan Walton examined the earliest records for Hawridge and Cholesbury in the County Records Office for 1857. A full list of all of the eligible properties is to be found in Appendix IX of the Local Heritage Study, available on our website hawridgeandcholesburycommons.org. In April 1968, Peter notified the owners of properties asking them to verify this entitlement in their deeds. He also listed a number of properties for which they were unable to identify current owners, in the hope that they would be recognised and they too could register their rights in time.

The owners of the following properties registered their rights:

On Hawridge Common

Gateway To graze 6 animals

Wayside (formerly Alta Cottage) To graze 6 animals

Tudor Cottage To graze 1 cow and 1 pig or the equivalent and to take timber for the roof repairs

Cottages known as 1 & 2 the Row To graze 4 horses or head of cattle and 4 sows

Mermaid Cottage (Heatherside) To graze 3 head of cattle or 3 horses (together with 3 sows)

The Laurels To graze 2 head of cattle or 2 horses and 1 sow

Ivy Cottage, (Hawridge) A right to take herbage, a right to take tree loppings or gorse or furze, bushes or underwood. A right to take turf or peat

The Rose & Crown To graze 1 head of cattle or 1 horse and 1 sow

The Old Forge, Heath End Rights to herbage, estovers and turbary.

Glebe Farm, Heath End A right of common of pasture for 5 cows and 5 sows

On both Hawridge and Cholesbury Commons

Woodlands Farm To graze 15 head of cattle and/or horses and in addition 15 sows

Bowmore (Botchmore) Farm To Graze 6 head of cattle or horses and 6 sows

Braziers End Farm To graze 20 head of cattle or horses and 20 sows

Rays Hill Farm To graze 4 head of cattle or horses

Baldwin's Farm, Rays Hill To graze 5 head of cattle at all times of the year

Common Ley The right to graze 12 head of cattle

On Cholesbury Common

The Old Vicarage and cottage Hayford A right of herbage.

The Bury The right to graze from the 21 April to 25 December in any year, 2 head of cattle or 2 donkeys or 4 calves under 1 year old and in addition 2 sows without litter or with litter under 9 weeks old or 4 pigs under 6 months old

Home Farm (formerly Ships Timbers) To graze 1 head of cattle or 1 horse and 1 sow in addition

Home Farm Cottage To graze 1 head of cattle or 1 horse and 1 sow in addition

Home Paddock To graze 1 horse or cow and a right of estovers

Overburnts, Danish Camp A right to graze 50 cows, 100 sheep. A right of estovers, turbary.

The owners of the above properties still retain these rights. Others such as the owners of The Full Moon, the Windmill, Cherry Orchard, Vale Farm and Willow Tree Cottage did not register their rights and have therefore lost them.

Lindsay Griffin

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HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CRICKET CLUB

Village Picnic

As was the case last year, the Village Picnic took place in hot conditions, ideal for the occasion. The cricket club emptied all its furniture out onto the field, to make for comfortable picnicking by visitors. To combat the heat, a number of tents and marquees were erected. Also popular was the shaded area under the trees next to the site screen. Bren Mason and his family provided some wonderful food from his burger bar, enjoyed by many.

By popular request, the Under 9 cricket team had a match against local rivals Ballinger. The visitors proved too strong for our team, but a wonderful day in the sun for our youngsters.



New Practice Nets

At the end of the day's fun and games, a short ceremony took place to recognise the part played by the Heart of Bucks Community Foundation, which came in the form of a £5,000 grant, to help offset the £23,000 price tag for the erection of the new two-lane practice nets. The CEO of Heart of Bucks, Peter Costello, joined us for the celebration, on behalf of Bucks Masons, who donated the funds.

The new nets are proving to be very popular with all our members. Practice turnouts are on the increase, and the results from our Colts appear to be improving. Is this a coincidence? The challenge now is to keep this expensive asset in pristine condition, so we appeal to members to take their turn at maintaining the facility.

Colts

This has been a good season for our younger members, with a win/lose percentage a lot higher than in recent seasons. The only age groups where wins have been difficult to come by are Under 13 and Under 14, where our numbers are thin, requiring 12 year-olds



to play one or two age groups up. This success coincides with a very healthy and enthusiastic contribution from parents, who are becoming increasingly engaged in coaching, managing and supporting. The enthusiasm is infectious!

Seniors

The season did not start well for the league team, with Cricket Captain Neil Jones struggling to find enough players to field a team. For a while the club was faced with the real threat of having to withdraw from the league. Somehow we found enough players to scrape through the first few weeks, albeit in a losing cause. Then there were a couple of victories to boost morale, including a win at Lacey Green with man-of-the-match, 15 year-old Luke Barker, scoring his maiden league 50 and taking 4 wickets. The team now languishes in the bottom half

of the league, but with brighter prospects for the rest of the season.

The Sunday Friendly team is generally stronger than our League Team, with little problem each week for Captain Ben Drane finding a team: some players preferring the fun of friendly cricket to the challenge of playing at a more competitive level.

Upcoming events

9 September: 'Celebrate the Seventies' Evening & Hog Roast
23 September (TBC): Family Fun Day and Colts Awards

All news, photos and more can be found on the club website, which is hawridgeandcholesbury.hitscricket.com. The club also has a Facebook Page and Twitter Account.

Brian Ralphs



CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

Lindengate is a mental health charity which specializes in garden activities. At its heart is an ethos that embraces conservation and it has become very clear that nature has given a seal of approval in what is being done at the site. There are a growing number of wild flowers and nesting birds, including mallards, whitethroats, grey partridges and kestrels and each day there is something new to stimulate the senses.

Since opening, the charity has worked with a number of wildlife charities by growing wild plants that are the sole food source of endangered species. With Butterfly Conservation this includes cowslips for the Duke of Burgundy butterfly, horseshoe vetch for a number of the blues and dark mullein for the striped lychnis moth.

The most recent and exciting addition to Lindengate's conservation activity is the tree nursery for endangered native species. Butterfly Conservation has supplied branches from a disease-resistant elm from which it is propagating over 100 cuttings.

If you would like to see how all these projects are getting on then follow Lindengate on Facebook where there are regular updates.

Telephone: 01296 622443

Email: info@lindengate.org.uk



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CHURCHES FETE

The Annual Hawridge & Cholesbury Churches Fete will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 28 August. The venue is Cholesbury Common by the Village Hall between 1.30pm and 4.30pm. Everyone is very welcome with free entry – with entertainment for children and adults alike.

Attractions this year include:

- Pimms and Beer tent
- Barbecue
- Grand Draw, including a cash prize of £100, donations from Tring Brewery, Cooks and local businesses (including a free MOT, a podiatry treatment and a meal for two), for which we are very grateful and a selection of wonderful hampers
- Dog Temptation alley – see if your dog can resist the treats on offer
- Plant and produce
- Bric a brac
- The legendary Cream Teas
- Ellesborough Silver Band
- Bouncy Castle and many games...

If anyone can help either on the day, or donate items such as bottles, good quality bric a brac/gift items, toys, books, recent DVD's, plants or produce from the veg patch/jars of chutney or marmalade please contact John Farmer (758715) or Maggie Carruthers maggie2@waitrose.com.

We would like to thank everyone who helps or supports this important fundraising event. If anyone is away but would like to buy raffle tickets for the Grand Draw please contact Maggie or John as above.

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Pub Lunch Club

The Pub Lunch Club is open to anyone living in, or connected with the Hilltop Villages of Buckland Common, Cholesbury, Hawridge and St Leonards. Currently the Pub Lunch Club meets at 12.30pm on the **second Wednesday of each month at The Black Horse.**

Currently around twenty villagers meet each month to enjoy excellent food and a chat in the convivial surroundings of the newly refurbished Black Horse. We are always made welcome by the excellent staff. So it's just the place to get to know some new faces, whether you are new to the villages, or if you are just around during the middle of the day, maybe working from home and just fancy a break. It also

provides an opportunity for those who might otherwise not find it easy to get to local social events, so if a lift is needed this can be arranged. On offer is a two-course meal, plus tea or coffee for just £12.

The next few dates for your diary are: **Wednesdays 9 August and 13 September.** Booking is made in advance by email or telephone. Contact details below.

Gentle exercise

The 'Gentle Exercise for Older Adults' classes continue to run on Wednesday mornings from 11 to 11.45 am at Cholesbury Village Hall. They are run for both ladies and gentlemen. Sessions are friendly and good fun and the exercises can be done sitting down if necessary. The courses are run by a qualified instructor provided by GLL who run the leisure and exercise facilities for Chiltern District Council. The cost is £28.50 for a set of six sessions but you can join in at any time and pay on a pro rata basis. Contact **Elayne Hughes** on **07880 975 100** or by email via elayne.hughes@gll.org

Further Information

If you would like to know more about or become a volunteer with the Good Neighbours Group go to www.cholesbury.com and follow the link to Good Neighbours Group or contact Chris Brown email: goodneighbours@cholesbury.com or phone **758890**.



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Crowds flock to showpiece event

The St Leonards Village Fete was blessed with fine weather on 3 June and it brought the crowds once again into the Parish Hall and field. Over 1000 people came to see the horse show and the dog show, a robust and highly competitive tug-of-war, partake in a wide variety of games and challenges and to browse at the well-stocked stalls. And when refreshment was needed the ladies of the WI were on hand to serve tea, scones and cakes to a hungry but happy multitude.

Above all there was a lovely atmosphere all afternoon as folk mingled and chatted and were entertained. It was a great social event for local people who supported it in great numbers and who lingered for longer than they might have expected to. Was it the weather that kept people there, or the food and drinks, or just the fun? Whatever, the fete was an enormous success and nobody noticed the absence of the Morris Dancers (who cancelled without explanation four days before).

There were some stunning vintage cars and bikes to enjoy; charming and genuinely funny moments in the dog show and the girls who ran the raffle sold a record number of tickets. Patrons were no doubt hoping to win the two tickets to an Oxford United home game!

The real triumph of the fete is the army of volunteers who help set up, park cars,

man stalls, cook cakes, collect tables and do all the jobs that need doing to stage such a big event. Thanks to each and every one of them. And, of course, to Judy Joseph and her small group of committee members who started preparations in January and made sure the whole day ran smoothly. Without them there would be no fete and the village would miss one of the high points of the year. After three years in the hot seat Judy will not be coordinating it next year, so let's hope someone in the community will be prepared to take on the task of organising our showpiece event next year.





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Small is beautiful



by the Reverend
David Burgess

*I wrote the original
version of this
article some ten or
eleven years ago.*

*Since then our churches have followed a
national pattern of declining attendances:
some of the trends are quite concerning.
Here are some up-to-date reflections on
this.*

There's a saying which I find to be very striking and which rings true for me. I don't know who first coined it, but it's quite appropriate for our four parishes: "God must love small churches; he has so many of them!"

I happen to think this is true. In any walk of life, from businesses to sports clubs to churches, there are large- and small-scale institutions. And each has something to offer. Not all of us will always want to shop at the largest and cheapest supermarket: there will be smaller shops which meet our needs when we want something specialist or specific. Not all football fans support Chelsea, Arsenal or Manchester United: there are local, family or traditional loyalties that bind supporters to smaller clubs.

Nor will all of us want to worship all the time at St. Paul's Cathedral or Holy Trinity Brompton. There are things to be gained from worshipping at the smaller-scale local parish level. Primarily, there's the opportunity in a smaller church to build up a community of fellowship. People get to

know one another better and more quickly and there can be more of a sense of shared ministry and mission.

But there's a flip side to the "small is beautiful" argument, and it's this. Building up this type of community takes harder work by a larger proportion of church members than it does in bigger congregations. Some people go to larger churches hoping to be treated relatively anonymously and there won't be too much complaint if that then happens. But – unless you want to be anonymous – you won't be too keen on a small church that passes you over as you come through its doors for the first time.

A cold welcome (or no welcome at all) instead of being given a feeling that you matter, dull worship in place of a meeting with the living God, and silence or idle chatter after a service as a substitute for a sense of fellowship, are three of the biggest turn-offs that a church can provide, irrespective of size. Avoiding these traps takes two things, knowing what's needed and working to achieve it. One way of doing both is actually to attend church in the first place – you don't have to take the "small is beautiful" doctrine so seriously that you promote it by your absence!

God does indeed love His small churches, but he expects a measure of love, care and commitment in return. We need to combine a confident, secure outlook on our faith with an openness to others who don't share that confidence and security, drawing them in and showing them God's love in return.

Do we have what it takes to be both small and beautiful?

David

CONTACT DETAILS AND SERVICES IN THE FOUR PARISHES: AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2017

DATE	DAY	St John the Baptist THE LEE		St Leonard's ST LEONARDS		St Laurence CHOLESBURY		St Mary's HAWRIDGE	
6 Aug	The Transfiguration	8.00 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion All-Age Worship at Lee Common Methodist	11.00 am	Parish Communion [no Sunday School]	9.30 am	Holy Communion	9.30 am	Family Service
13 Aug	Trinity 9	10.00 am	Parish Communion	-	[Sharing service with The Lee]	10.00 am	Patronal Service	-	[Sharing service with Cholesbury]
20 Aug	Trinity 10	10.00 am	Matins [Lay Led]	10.00 am Shared Three-Parish Communion at Hawridge					
27 Aug	Trinity 11	10.00 am	Parish Communion	9.00 am	Morning Prayer [Lay-Led]	9.00 am	Sharing St Leonards or Hawridge service	11.00 am	Parish Communion
3 Sep	Trinity 12	8.00 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion All-Age Worship	11.00 am	Parish Communion with Sunday School	9.30 am	Holy Communion	9.30 am	Family Service
10 Sep	Trinity 13	10.00 am	Parish Communion	6.00 pm	Harvest Festival	10.00 am	Family Service	9.30 am	Holy Communion
17 Sep	Trinity 14	10.00 am	Matins [Lay-Led]	10.00 am Shared Three-Parish Service Communion at St Leonards					
24 Sep	Trinity 15	10.00 am	Parish Communion	9.00 am	Breakfast Service [Lay-Led]	-	Sharing Harvest Festival At Hawridge	10.00 am	Harvest Festival

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Parish Secretary
Peggy Sear
07804 697948
peggysear@icloud.com

Churchwardens
The Lee
Trevor Pearce
01494 837601
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Rod Neal
01494 837264
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Churchwardens (contd.)
Hawridge
Elizabeth Tomlin
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Cholesbury
John Farmer
01494 758715
jandb.farmer@btopenworld.com

Churchwardens (contd.)
St Leonards
Mark Lane
01494 837166
markrtlane@hotmail.com

James Nisbet
01296 624337
jamesnisbet@btinternet.com

FROM THE REGISTERS

ST LEONARDS

Funeral

15 February 2017 – Dora Amy Lamasz, Followed by cremation
 22 February 2017 – Michael Paton, Followed by cremation
 20 April 2017 – Charles Benjamin Painter, Followed by cremation
 18 May 2017 – Ernest Arnold Jones, Followed by cremation

Burial

27 June 2017 - Peter Mansfield Sturges

Burial of Ashes

25 April 2017 – Dora Amy Lamasz
 19 June 2017 – Charles Benjamin Painter

CHOLESBURY

Burial

17 March 2017 – Alison Louise Lorimer

Holy Matrimony

12 May 2017 – Susannah Louise King and Duncan Edward Samuel Mitchell

HAWRIDGE

Holy Baptism

2 July 2017 – Jessica Joan Violet Matthews

CHURCH MATTERS

It is with much regret that we say goodbye to Kevan Royle and his wife, Heather. Kevan has played a major part in the Hilltop Churches for over twelve years - supporting David by taking services on a very regular basis. Kevan and Heather are moving to Devon to be near one of their daughters who is needful of their support in caring for the family's two children. Kevan, we thank you for your work with us over a long period of time. We shall miss you very much!



Fond farewell to Kevan and Heather

CHOLESBURY

We were delighted to welcome

Duncan Mitchell

and Sue King to Cholesbury Church on Friday 12 May to

be joined in Holy Matrimony – and they did it their way! There was no Best Man but Morny Drury, Duncan's sister, was Best Woman. Not one organist but two. Duncan's aunt Jill Dwight, who plays in Bellingdon church, and a cousin Paul Hollingshead each accompanied a lively hymn on our fine Bates organ. Page boy Edward, age 3, is Duncan and Sue's son and Sue was accompanied by five bridesmaids. The bride wore a beautiful ivory dress with a crystal covered bodice and tulle netting over the skirt.

Sue is from Chesham and Duncan is Hawridge-born and they first met at Chesham Park School. Sue went on to become a children's nurse while Duncan works in a hospital theatre – while still keeping in touch with the family farm. They were supported at the wedding by family, friends, neighbours from the local farming community and Sue's nursing friends. A wedding is a public declaration and, after the service, bride and groom walked openly to the Village Hall for their reception. Their guests walked with them in the traditional village style. Sadly, Duncan's brother, Wesley, was unable to join them following a stroke.

The Cream Teas was as usual a delicious occasion in good Cholesbury tradition. There were fewer visitors this year but those who came enjoyed a sunny afternoon, fine Teas and popular stalls. Several cyclists interrupted their journeys to buy a Cream Tea and a group from Chiltern Weekend Ramblers, ably led by Anne Byrne, joined us. Good planning Anne! Steve Davey won the House of Windsor centenary coin.



Holy Matrimony

Thank you to Joan and Paddy for serving such a wide range of cakes made by many generous friends. Thanks also to Liz Green and her team in the kitchen, Roseanne Vince on the Plants, Sue Fletcher with the Bric a Brac and Stewart Pearce selling squares at Buckingham Palace. Net receipts were £1,020. Well done everyone!

The sun shone for the **Pets' Service** in June and the seating was moved outside for people and their animals. Dogs, renowned for their faithfulness, always attend and we welcomed six including a red setter and terrier. This year a tortoise arrived after an absence of many years and a giant snail made a first appearance as did a black and white rat. Our thoughts were also focussed on Planet Earth, the home of humans and animals, which is damaged by war and pollution. David blessed the pets and families individually and led us with his guitar.

The Churches Fete is on **August Bank Holiday Monday** and will be in Cholesbury. We will have all the usual stalls, the Ellesborough Band, cakes, Pimms, barbeque, ice cream and lovely teas. Do come along from 1.30, finishing about 4.30 with the Grand Draw. We would be very grateful for help in setting up the site from 8.30am and dismantling after 5pm.

Finallyon 21 July someone from Northchurch wrote in our Visitor's Book 'cool on the hottest day of the year - serene.'

HAWRIDGE

Our 'Short and Sharp' Services are becoming a regular fixture in our service calendar, our most recent one being on 4 June. This is a great opportunity for anyone who finds a longer service difficult to fit into a busy Sunday, extending to just 15 minutes but still with all the components of a regular service. David always advertises this service on Grapevine but if you would like to be reminded please phone 01494 757059.



On 6 June **Elizabeth Tomlin** was sworn in as Church Warden and we extend our thanks to her for all her hard work and dedication in this role, ensuring the smooth-running of our services and much else.

On 13 June an invitation was extended to St. Mary's to the unveiling of the Tree Cathedral at the school by the Archdeacon and all those who attended were extremely impressed.

On 30 June our **Summer Concert** was once again led by Professor Iain Ledingham from the Royal Academy supported on this occasion by Tamsin Birch and Laura Roberts who performed a very unusual programme with a Russian and French theme. Guy Williams, Tony Eccleston and Elizabeth Tomlin also contributed to the evening's entertainment and we were delighted with a wonderful boost of £383 to St. Mary's funds. Thank you to everyone who attended, donated to the raffle and helped with the catering.

On 2 July Tony Eccleston led our **Patronal Service** and in the afternoon we were



Jessica Matthews Christening

delighted to welcome a huge number of the Matthews' family to the Christening of **Jessica Joan Violet Matthews**. Sarah Dewhurst, Darren Deane, Trafford Matthews and Josh Hurwood are Jessica's godparents and on a wonderful sunny afternoon everyone enjoyed a lovely service led by David with all the children joining in with the hymns and Elizabeth playing the organ.

Looking forward, our next fundraising event is the traditional **Bank Holiday Monday Fete** at Cholesbury on 28 August. We rely very heavily on the continued support of a band of stalwart helpers and it would be wonderful to see a few new faces both in the setting up and running of the day. Hawridge traditionally run the cake stall (in addition to many others!) so please do support both churches by donating cakes, bottles, raffle prizes, plants, gifts etc. If you would like us to collect anything, please phone 01494 757059.

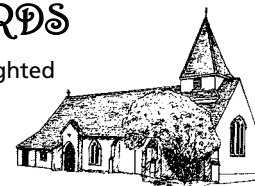
The **Harvest/Michaelmas Market**, now in its fourth year, will be held on **Saturday 23 September** – venue to be confirmed. Watch out for local adverts and Grapevine for full details or phone 757059 to be kept up-to-date.

It is the turn of Hawridge Church to host the **Harvest Supper** and Auction of Produce and this will take place on **Sunday 24 September** at Cholesbury Village Hall, 5.30 for a prompt 6pm start. This really is a wonderful event in a truly relaxed atmosphere to celebrate the importance of this year's harvest being safely gathered in. There will be a two-course meal at just £7.50 for adults and £5 for children. The auction is great fun and enables us to make worthy contributions to The International Children's Trust, Leprosy Mission, Hospice of St. Francis and the Church Urban Fund. Tickets are available from the Waltons (758332), Elizabeth (758214) or email hawridgechurch@gmail.com.

ST LEONARDS

We were delighted to welcome **Matthew**

Crippen and Poppy Reid who were



married in St Leonards church on Saturday 20 May. Poppy looked beautiful in a very pretty cream satin and lace dress with a veil and a long train and she was attended by three bridesmaids who were equally elegant in soft grey dresses. About eighty family and friends came to wish the young couple well and the wedding party left the church in black cabs – owned by the Bride's father – allowing them all to miss the heavy showers! We wish Matthew and Poppy much happiness as they start their married life together.

The little church was full on Tuesday 27 June as people gathered to remember **Peter Sturges** who had lived in the Villages for very many years. Peter had been unwell for some time but his very active mind always enjoyed up-to-date news of local friends and village events. It was a moving service attended by many former Army colleagues as well as family and friends. Peter was buried with his wife, Jill – a fitting end to a lovely marriage. A Celebration of Peter's Life will appear in the next edition of Hilltop News together with that of Ernest Jones and Charlie Painter.

With the loss of Diana Osborne and Anne Butterworth, the **PCC** is very keen to find some replacements! It's an interesting and very friendly Committee with everyone bringing the things which are of special interest to them to the group. Please contact the Churchwardens, Mark Lane (837166) or James Nisbet (01296 624337) if you would like to hear more about what is involved. They would really love to hear from you!

On Sunday 2 July we held a **Family Barbeque** following our Family Service. We hadn't done this for a number of years and we were delighted to have more than fifty people – adults and children – who came to join in. It was a lovely sunny day made very special as it was Kevan Royle's last service before he and his wife move to Devon. Kevan was presented with a lovely signed photo of St Leonards Church as a thank-you for the many services he has taken at St Leonards.

The wonderful smell of lunch filled the air with our three expert chefs, Mark, James and Giles excelling at the barbeque. Barbara Baddon masterminded the day and everyone produced wonderful food – not easy to judge quantities when you're not certain how many will be there! It worked perfectly! Well done, Barbara!



Family barbeque

Children of all ages enjoyed a Treasure Hunt and there were a number of dads who were divested of stripey socks and coins with a specific date! Children of all ages learned a little about the inside of the church as they answered some tricky questions.

At our June **Breakfast Service** we were mindful of the appalling events in Manchester and in London and then the terrible Grenfell Tower fire. We celebrated the fact that people of all races came together to help the victims of these disasters and we left the short half hour service with a strong sense of the need to stay strong ourselves and work together to overcome adversity. We are grateful to Alice Baddon who played her flute most beautifully.

We look forward to welcoming you to our **Tea Parties** on **Wednesday 23 August** and again on **Wednesday 27 September**. Everyone is most welcome to join in – whether you come regularly or whether



Presentation to Kevan Royle

you only manage to call in now and again. If we can help with transport, please contact Anne Lake (01296 620169) or Anne Butterworth (758700) - the cakes and scones are always delicious!

Our **Harvest Festival** is on 10 September at 6pm with a wonderful supper afterwards in the Parish Hall. We do hope you will join us. For details please contact Sallie Bright (758907).

LITTLE BEARS PRE-SCHOOL

Dogs and goats have featured on the Little Bears' curriculum this summer!

The children have long been accustomed to friendly dogs, out for their morning walks, as they come into pre-school in the mornings. What is more unusual is the number of assistance dogs in this beautiful rural setting, including a trainee hearing dog, an ex-trainee guide dog and a hearing dog owned by Jenny Smith.

After speaking to Jenny, we were delighted to welcome her to come to speak to our children, complete with her now retired, very patient dog Molly. A few days later, we were also introduced to Tassie, her current working dog. Jenny lost her hearing as a child and learnt many tactics, including lip reading, to help her live a 'normal' life. However, her greatest asset is probably her hearing assistance dog.

It was fascinating to learn how each dog is matched to its future owner. Coming from Hearing Dogs for Deaf People in Saunderton, near High Wycombe, Jenny's dogs went through specialised training before she was able to take them home. Jenny told us that it takes eight months of initial training for each dog, then further instruction after being assigned to her. Jenny also had to go to the centre to be trained herself before being able to take her dog home permanently.

We learnt that the average working life of a hearing assistance dog is 10-11 years and slightly longer for a smaller dog. Interestingly, poodles and cockerpoos are now popular dogs as their coats are wool rather than the usual dog hair, making them suitable for people with allergies.

Jenny demonstrated how Molly has helped her in her everyday life, including putting her nose on her to alert her when



her wake up alarm is going off in the morning. Similarly, Molly would come and alert Jenny if someone was at the front door.

The children were particularly delighted to be able to give Molly a special treat to eat, which she took gently.

A few weeks later we ventured further afield to the Bucks Goat Centre for an end-of-year outing. Here we encountered not only goats but llamas, pigs and rabbits.



Shown around by two very enthusiastic and helpful members of staff, we learnt about the animals' lives. With their gentle natures, we were able to feed most of the animals and the children learnt to hold their hands flat while the animals took the feed. There was also an opportunity for holding and stroking some of the small animals on our laps.

After thorough hand washing we headed to the picnic tables for a special treat of squash and goat-shaped biscuits, a delicious end to a sun-filled wonderful day!

Carmel Luttrell

Look out for the return of two top predators

There was a compulsion shared by the gentleman amateur naturalists of the 19th century to collect more species of butterfly, bird's eggs, fossils, and so on, than their rivals.

Large amounts of money often exchanged hands to secure a particularly rare specimen and gentlemen often employed others to search out much sought after examples.

Charles Darwin was an obsessive hunter of beetles and hired men to collect particular specimens that he could add to his collection or trade with his beetle-collecting peers. Lionel Walter Rothschild's obsession extended to creating a zoo in his back garden and also a purpose-built private museum to house the stuffed birds and animals he purchased from collector/ hunters. A visit to Tring Natural History Museum brings us into conflict on the one hand with our fascination with the natural world and our anxiety of enjoying the sight of so many dead animals slaughtered almost for the sole purpose of providing entertainment for the Victorian aristocracy.

I suspect that having seen all the animals and birds on display, relatively few visitors pause by many of the mahogany cabinets to inspect the hundreds of drawers containing insects of every hue and kind. Next time you visit do dally for a moment to look at some of the trays. Not only is the breadth of the insect kingdom represented surprising but also the evidence of how this Victorian obsession took hold of collectors like Darwin and Rothschild as displayed by the examples of the minute variations within a particular species that were also deemed essential to outcompete other collectors.

There are some cabinets tucked away in Tring NHM reserved by the top insect predators, the dragonflies, from the UK and around the world. By the early part of the 20th century all the thirty or so then known resident species of dragon and damselflies had been identified, named and recorded. Much as is the case today with twitchers descending on a quiet backwater to catch a glimpse of a rarely seen bird blown off-course, so the dragonfly collectors sought out examples of the scarce varieties.

One such was given the name 'scarce aeshna'. It was described in 1937 as a 'sometime visitor restricted to the south coast'. Since then it progressively became a more frequent visitor. By the second half of the 20th century, reflecting that it now regularly frequented the southern counties, it was renamed the Migrant Hawker. Soon it had become a resident species and has subsequently spread to most of England, parts of Ireland and, since the year 2000, it has been recorded in Scotland. The Migrant Hawker is just the first example of a trend in UK colonisation by up to fifteen European species that can now survive the increasingly warmer climate in the UK. However, it is not all rosy as a further thirteen UK dragonflies have seen their breeding range recede, partly due to climate and loss of habitat, but also due



to competition from other more successful dragonflies.

Look out for larger fat-bodied dragonflies and smaller damselflies on the wing over the summer. The dragonflies which spend most of their time on the wing, protecting a 20 metre territory to hunt for prey, are known as hawkers whilst those that lurk atop stems and dart out to catch their food are the darters. Both rely on their large all-round vision compound eyes comprising up to 28,000 facets per eye which detect small movements and enable depth-sensitive vision.

* * *

In a recent BBC online news article an arresting image of a Eurasian Lynx staring straight back at me certainly was an attention grabber. This was not the expected story about these medium-sized wild cats living in the extensive forests that cover much of Siberia, the boreal forests of the Balkans or amongst the steep slopes in the Carpathian Mountains. Nor was it the illegal trade in skins acquired by hunting parties in Russia, Finland and even Sardinia. This was a story centred on a project much closer to home, in the north-east of England.

At first sight the initial phase of the project sounds like a fairly modest affair involving the introduction of four to six lynx fitted with radio-controlled collars to a monitored reserve within the Kielder Forest in Northumberland. The forest has been selected for its remoteness from human habitation and absence of roads. Unsurprisingly, the main concerns expressed locally about the project are the impact on sheep farming and shooting businesses. Meanwhile one of the arguments for the pilot reintroduction is that lynx control the

fox and deer populations but rarely take sheep and shun human contact.

Unlike the wildcat, the only current member of the cat family which has maintained a UK presence in restricted areas of north Wales and the Scottish Highlands, the lynx is not exactly domestic cat sized. Lynx are large (1.3m long) heavy (30kg) powerful carnivores with intimidating claws and sabre-like incisors. Ten thousand years ago, at the end of the most recent Ice Age, the area that would later become the British Isles emerged from beneath the receding ice sheet. Before the melt water had the opportunity to overwhelm the land bridge with the continent many foraging mammals like voles, shrews, red squirrels, dormice, boar, deer (roe and red) migrated westwards.

Alongside these familiar animals several large predators, such as the lynx followed. At this time much of their territory would have been densely wooded and in a Chiltern landscape with its secret wooded valleys rich in wildlife, but largely empty of humans, the lynx would have thrived. However, although a top predator, the lynx would have needed to compete for its prey with other top predators such as the wolf. The type of territory the average big cat, like a lynx or the mythical panther spotted from time to time locally, needs is a very remote wooded area in excess of 100 square miles. It has been some time since the last lynx died out in these parts, coinciding with the clearance of many forested areas due to the expansion of farming. It was probably around 700AD when it was finally hunted to extinction over most of England.

That's all this time. Comments or questions as usual to chrisbrown@rayshill.com



Jean Pope

1925 – 2017

Jean Pope, a former long-term resident of Heath End, died in Yorkshire in May. Born in Sheffield in 1925, Jean was the elder of two sisters. During the war years Jean was evacuated to Berkshire and it was in Reading that Jean first became really involved in studying and making music. Jean sang and played the cello and was involved with many classical concerts there. Through the music scene Jean met her first husband Ronald Finch, a pianist and composer. They married in 1950 and Jean's daughters Ros and Avril were born in 1954 and 1956.

In order to boost the family coffers, Jean set about improving things for her family in her own quiet, yet determined, manner by training as a Primary school teacher. After only a few years in the classroom, her musical ability held her in good stead and she became a music teacher and a consultant to the Local Authority.

Divorced in the early 70s, in 1978 Jean married Arthur Pope, an engineer who had worked with Frank Whittle on developing the Jet Engine, and she was then able to focus more on her passions of music, painting and redesigning the garden of her new home at Boundary Cottage, Heath End. Jean was part of a group of eight painters who formed Studio 91 where they worked and painted together and held a number of exhibitions.

Jean and Arthur had many happy years together, sharing their love of the local area, artistic and musical interests and holidays abroad. Jean loved to entertain outside in the garden. The family members have many happy memories of meals outside and games of croquet on the lawn. Jean doted on her grandchildren and loved to see them all.

Sadly, in his latter years, Arthur developed dementia and Jean was his devoted, full time carer until his death in 2012. Jean was very grateful to the many family, friends and neighbours who helped her before and after Arthur's death but, after a time, she found life in her beloved Boundary Cottage too onerous and she reluctantly moved to a flat in Amersham and then finally to a care home in Ilkley so that she could be nearer to her daughters. After a fall, she was hospitalised and died of pneumonia.



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An accidental vigneron in Bucks



Local help with grape-picking

The first time I saw the vineyard looking across the valley toward Cock's Hill in the Hale with my colleague, Chris, in what would be a large departure from our normal lives, I was immediately seduced by it. The vines appeared to us to be laden with grapes and it was a balmy afternoon in late September. Harvest wouldn't be for about three weeks.

Well", said Antony, "I'm likely to grub it up if you don't take it on as it is just getting a bit too much for Carol and me". "What do you think, Chris?" I say. Chris, always up for a new challenge agrees without a pause. This was in 2013 and we've now had three harvests at the Hale Valley Vineyard we now manage. Despite Antony and Carol's unflinching support and advice, our yield has, in those three years, gone from "great" to "okay" to "what's the point"!

The vineyard, planted over 25 years ago, is small (about an acre) and frankly what

we knew about cultivating vines would take no more time to express than it takes to swig a small glass of English fizz (which is what we've mainly made, by the way). Our job is to produce large, clean (free from mildew), juicy sweet grapes with just the right acidity to make the wine makers job a doddle to produce wonderful wine – except it's not that easy. We've got to prevent frost damage, mildew, botrytis and somehow persuade muntjacs not to treat our grapes as a delightful dessert to their normal diet. At least we don't have wild boars in Bucks with their penchant for "just ripe" grapes! But we have produced grapes - enough in the first year to make 1100 bottles of fizz – and we've had very favourable comments on it.

We are not doing this as a commercial venture: we would need 25 times the size and a fistful of biochemistry degrees, I've discovered. To get a yield of up to 3 tonnes per acre everything, including our ever fickle weather, would need to be just right – from the soil nutrients to the skills involved in winter and summer pruning



and identifying worrying marks and appearances on leaves, grapes and vines. It's a whole new world! But vines are hardy and quite difficult to kill.

The pleasure of the harvest in mid-October comes second (of course) to the pleasure of drinking wine from locally grown vines. After our first, when we had about 15 helpers for picking and at the lunch hosted by Antony and Carol afterwards, Antony was heard to comment "not bad for beginners". We were elated.

Now, three years on, Chris has moved westwards but still comes up to mow, prune and spray and my brother, Richard, has joined us. We have started our mildew control programme for the season and we're hoping that the frosts forecast for this week (when I'm writing this piece) won't trouble our delicate buds which have started bursting a little early this year. Our trellis system is quite high off the ground which helps with this and, importantly as we are not getting any younger, not having to bend double to pick the grapes later in the year.

There are more and more vineyards being planted in the UK – the UK Vineyard Association report that in 2015 over 5 million bottles were produced and a record number of vines will be planted over the next 12 months, enough to produce 2 million more bottles of wine a year. It's virtually impossible to pick up a paper nowadays without some reference to

the burgeoning UK wine industry where our quality "British Fizz" (a term coined by a New York bar owner) is winning international awards every step of the way.

It's great to feel part of this in a, admittedly, very small way. Sometimes, just sitting on a log in the vineyard on a clear day brings me close to a real sense of peace - Ah I hear you say, only until HS2 comes to town! Well, maybe it's just good to enjoy things while we can. Cheers.....

A summer postscript: Well, the air frost did hit us at the end of April (and we were not alone – even down as far as the south of France!). The buds were just budding and it took virtually everything. But Nature is a wonderful thing and secondary buds appeared and have caught up remarkably quickly. Not as many, of course, but I think we may have something if the weather holds and these later grapes can ripen. More to come!

Patrick Hurd

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Born to make films...



In past issues of Hilltop News we have featured the film work of local villagers Mark Sanger and Rusty Lodge. Now we are pleased to hear from Rusty's sister Janine Modder about her hectic, varied and interesting life behind the camera...

My brother Rusty and I were born into the film business with my Mother, Elsa Fennell, being a Costume Supervisor and my Father, Jimmy Lodge, being a Stuntman. It didn't stop there as my uncle, Jack Fennell was Studio Manager at Pinewood Studios (living in one side of the famous Double Lodge at Pinewood) and our other uncle, Albert Fennell, was a Producer of the TV Series The Avengers, The New Avengers and The Professionals.

Whilst most people would have thought it a natural step for both Rusty and I to enter straight into the film industry, neither of us were originally keen to do so. Rusty

wanted to be a vet and all I wanted to do was produce horses. Rusty relented earlier than I did (whilst he'd like to tell you I'm the older sister, he is actually six years older than me) and I was still at school when he made the step into the film game. It was my Mother's passing away that gave me the kick I needed to join the industry and in August 1982 I joined my Cousin's company Filmex, which was a small business based at Pinewood which would take a script through its first draft, to a schedule and then a budget in order to obtain financing for the project. During this time I was also placed on films as a Production Runner, with my first placement being on Yellowbeard (film with John Cleese, Marty Feldman and Peter Cook).

Over the years I have worked my way up the grades from Production Runner to Production Co-Ordinator and then on to Production Managing. In the autumn of 2015, I finally managed to Executive Produce my first film, The Journey, which

comes out on the circuit this summer and is the story of a journey made by Martin McGuinness and Iain Paisley which led to the Good Friday Peace Agreement.

All of these roles involve the backroom paper trail of contracts for the crew, scheduling, equipment hire, health and safety, shipping and transportation of crews to far off shores, whilst maintaining an eye on the finances!

I try not to travel too much but if the work is only available abroad there's little choice - someone has to pay the mortgage! I was out of the country for around 11 months during 2013/14. I started the year in Hungary on Hercules but, due to a Producer change, left this in May and fell straight into Exodus-Gods and Kings. From August 2013 through to February 2014, I spent my time in Almeria and then Fuerteventura - it was the biggest challenge I think I've ever met. The crew move from Almeria to Fuerteventura (needing two passenger aircraft to take the crew of 330) also meant trucks/trailers/support vehicles, minibuses, 95 horses, mules had to travel on a huge ferry that we hired for the journey. We loaded after finishing filming on a Thursday night, with it sailing at 1am on Friday and landing at 9am on the Saturday morning. I seconded local Wendover vets, Nick Snookes and Sam, to travel on the ferry with the animals and was very relieved to see them all coming off the ferry safe and sound that morning.

Working in the film industry is hard on the hours and can be seven days a week, depending on what stage of production you are at. But what the industry does give you is variety and the biggest learning curve you will ever have in life - no day is the same, more challenges come at you for every hour of the day, and you will learn so much about the day-to-day working process of the industry and how it continually evolves with the digital age (that said Rusty, my son Ethan and I have just completed Murder on the Orient Express that was

shot on 65mm film!) and also it teaches you about people: you create a family at the beginning of a job and you have to continue to work with them for up to a very intensive six months possibly - you deal with the good, the bad and the ugly (like an 04.00hrs morning call).

Down time for both Rusty and I are our horses - I apologise now to all the villagers as I have been told more than once that in the summer months when I get a chance to ride before work, that I'm better than any alarm clock as we 'clip clop' past at first light! That said, many of the villagers have also been really helpful when I get a young pony in to break and ride away, and am either stuck on the common when it won't move or wobbling slowly down the road as they are trying to get to work. The horses keep my sanity, as well as providing financial remuneration in the break between films.

What's next? Who knows when the phone will ring for the next project? It normally happens when I've filled Rusty and Philly's yard with horses for schooling that a new start date is given! We try to split the work between us so that we can keep our personal crews working and, as both of us are keen to encourage new growth within the industry, this clan seems to be growing by the minute!

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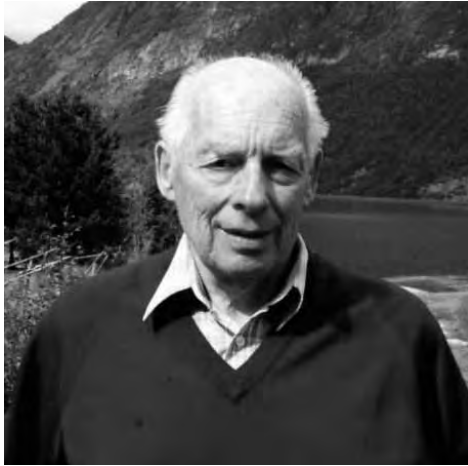



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James Charles Turner Fulks

1935 – 2017

James Fulks, known locally in the Hilltop villages as Jim, was born at Molasba Cottage in Buckland Common on 4 August 1935 and was one of five children. He had four sisters Joan, Dorcus, Mary and Susan and together with his parents Hugh and Dora lived a typical happy village life.

He loved his sisters dearly. Joan eventually emigrated to Canada with her husband Leonard Eggleton and had a daughter Janet, where she remained until she passed away several years ago. Dorcus is currently in a nursing home in St.Ives, Cornwall and Mary and Susan both live in Tring.

Whilst Jim was growing up his mother Dora was a teacher at St Leonards school and by all accounts was a very accomplished piano player. His father Hugh was a cook in the Royal Air Force and served at Biggin Hill, Kent during WW2. Hugh later became the lay preacher for the Baptist Chapel at Buckland Common, which is now Chapel House. The cemetery land at the back of the chapel was gifted to the Baptist Chapel

by Jim's grandparents on his mother's side of the family.

Jim was by trade a painter and decorator and worked for a short while before completing his national service with the RAF in Swansea. In July 1957 he married Sheila and had two children, Jamie and Dawn. The family moved into 1 Horseshoe Cottages, Buckland Common. Jim's sister Mary lived at No. 2 with her husband Ken. Joan owned No.3 and rented it to the Seabrook family and eventually Dorcus moved into No. 4 with her family.

Jim and Mary eventually took ownership from Hugh Fulks of the orchard between the Baptist chapel and Horseshoe Cottages and the whole family enjoyed the abundant fruit which was grown: apples, pears, cherries and plums and Jim would often mention how, during and after the war, lorries would turn up from Watford with teams of pickers and take the fruit away to be made into pies, jams and drinks.

Jim liked the Chilterns and remained in the village until 1986 when he moved with Sheila to South Heath. He maintained his connection to the village by growing Christmas trees in the orchard for many years, planting several hundred each year so there was a constant supply and he would sell them from the orchard at weekends in the build up to Christmas.

He was also a very keen country sports enthusiast and was a member of the local branch of the National Association of Muzzle Loaders, which is an old fashion ram-rod shotgun. Jim was great friends with a couple of local characters, Nick Grace and Horace Butcher, who both lived in Buckland Common. They would go shooting at a monthly gathering at Halton woods, near Wendover, just behind the RAF officers' quarters, where Jamie remembers going with him on many occasions. In addition Jim and his pals would travel to other parts of the country taking part in national shooting competitions.

When Jim eventually retired he started

charity work and went to help at Workaid in Chesham where, as a practical person, he repaired sewing machines. He also repaired garden tools and all these would be put into a sea container and taken to Africa for distribution to people in real need. Jim carried on working for the charity, going twice a week until just a couple of months before he passed away. His friends at Workaid believe he rebuilt and repaired over 500 sewing machines in his 16 years with the organisation.

His final few years were spent in Tring, a surprise to his family as he was a country boy at heart, but he settled so well into his home and enjoyed the life in a small town: but he never stopped loving the Hilltops where he spent so much of his time. The family and his friends will miss him immensely.

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CURVACEOUS COOK



Mexican Bean Burgers

*These are really quick and tasty. They hold their shape well, so could be good on the barbeque - but I haven't tried that yet. I serve them with a crisp salad and a yogurt, chilli and basil dip.
You can obviously make them as hot as you like by adding more paprika.*

800g canned beans, rinsed and drained well. I use borlotti as I prefer them to kidney beans, and they are hard to find in Italy, but any bean would do.

1 large slice wholemeal bread, whizzed into quite fine crumbs

2 tsp smoked paprika

1 tsp ground cumin

Large handful of coriander leaves, or 1 heaped tbs of dried coriander

Finely grated zest of 1 lime or lemon

1 small, lightly beaten, egg

Salt and black pepper

Roughly crush the beans in a big bowl

Add everything else and mix well

Shape into patties: six smallish ones, or four bigger ones.

Grill for about 4 minutes on each side until golden and crisp and heated through.

You can freeze the uncooked mix, then bake from frozen for 20-30 minutes until heated through. To be honest, they are so quick to make I wouldn't bother!

They don't need a bun, but would be lovely in a brioche burger bun with pickles.

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23rd Tea Party – St Leonards Church Room – 3pm

28th Hawridge & Cholesbury Churches' Fete – Cholesbury Common – 1.30-4.30pm

September 2017

2nd Hort Soc Annual Show – H&C School – 2.30pm

10th Harvest Festival – St Leonards Parish Hall – 6pm

13th Pub Lunch Club – The Black Horse – 12.30pm

18th WI – St Leonards Parish Hall – 8pm

24th Harvest Supper – Cholesbury Village Hall – 6pm

25th Parish Council Meeting – Cholesbury Village Hall – 8pm

27th Tea Party – St Leonards Church Room – 3pm

October 2017

6th Local History Group – St Leonards Parish Hall – 8pm

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Hilltop News

We welcome all news, letters and articles which are of general interest and relevance to the Hilltop Villages. Material for inclusion in the October/November edition should be sent to Graham Lincoln or Anne Butterworth (Church Matters) by **10 September** latest. Please note that photos sent online must be at least 2,500 x 1,750 pixels in size.

Editor

Graham Lincoln 758449
grahamlnc@aol.com

Co-ordinator/Church Matters

Anne Butterworth 758700
anne@churchcottage.eu

Advertising

Ann Horn 758250
annhorn43@aol.com

Design & Production

Michael Spark 758882
info@michaelspark.com

Distribution

Rosemary Pearce 758334

Printer

Strong's, Berkhamsted 01442 878592
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