

Hilltop News



February & March 2018

Winter's memories

I am writing this on a cold, dank January morning in hope that the most disruptive winter weather is behind us. A 'snow bomb' fell on the Hilltops and surrounding area on Sunday 10 December and caused contrasting emotions. Reassuringly, our team of volunteer drivers in the Good Neighbours Group Car Scheme were on hand to rescue stranded villagers – the first time they have been needed after a couple of mild winters.

By contrast, the snow brought joy to many of our youngsters, who went out and put their creative minds to building snowmen and other sculptures around the villages. Willing photographers David Dennis and Michelle Storm captured many of the snowy images for *Hilltop News* and inspired the choice for this edition's front cover, before the white stuff melted away to memory.

Let's now look forward to the delights of spring...Ed

In this issue:

David Frisby remembered

The story of the **Cholesbury chalices**

Wigginton Shop launches share offer

In his **Nature Notes**, Chris Brown is not lost for words

Our **Curvaceous Cook** rustles up a traditional Scottish one-pot comfort dish

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



The local Boxing Day meet drew big crowds again to Cholesbury Common on a cold, clear day.

Revd. David Burgess

A few days ago someone wrote to me to say, "It is true to say that never ever in the history of the Hilltop Villages have so many people prayed for a single person." What a marvellous response from you all. I know that David and Penny feel blessed by your support for them. There is no doubt that, alongside some truly incredible medical care, everyone who has been involved in supporting David has played a role. It is wonderful that finally, after so much stress and strain, David has been allowed home. Thank you all. Now another stage in the journey has begun, as David and Penny adjust, work towards and pray about the new shape that life will have. I know, as do they, that we will all continue in our prayerful support and care for them.

Deiniol Heywood, Area Dean



THE PARISH COUNCIL

I am delighted to announce that Bill Ingram has been co-opted to take over from Judy Joseph on the Parish Council. Also, just before Christmas, John Minting stepped down and this time Diane Brackley was co-opted to take over his position. So the New Year starts for the PC with a couple of new members and a complete team once again. May I take this opportunity to give a very warm welcome to Bill and Diane and of course give many thanks to Judy and John for their years of service.

Otherwise the usual council business of reviewing planning applications and pushing for repairs to the roads continues apace. The winter weather has, as usual, played havoc with the roads and so we start again reporting potholes! The planned repairs to Hawridge Hill also fell victim to the weather, but now there are several potholes that need attention. We hope to have TfB repair those before the overall repair takes place that was planned for 2017 but will now take place after winter. Please remember that if you see a pothole, please

report it to <http://transportforbucks.net/report-it-pothole.aspx>. These reports go straight to the Local Area Technician and are logged on a system where they cannot be ignored!

You might be interested to know about a new on-line tool from the County Council <http://www.recycle4bucks.co.uk/recycle-in-your-area/>, which can help you identify what to do with unwanted items and also includes a guide as to what can and can't be recycled – let's start 2018 a little bit greener!

Finally, there are still two half plots available at the allotments, should anyone be interested. Rent £12.50 per annum per half plot.

Any queries regarding the Parish please get in touch...

Hayley Lewis, Parish Clerk

Phone on 758843, or email parishclerk.ccsipc@gmail.com

...and don't forget to check our website... www.cholesburyparishcouncil.org.uk where you can find all you need to know about the parish council as well as lots of local information on our noticeboard, including surveys, details of meetings and updates on local services that will affect you.

Your councillors are:

John Allen, Chairman: 758095

Nigel Blomfield: 758314

Diane Brackley: 01296 625081

Chris Brown: 758890

Philip Matthews: 758205

Bill Ingram: 758258

Francis Sanger: 758767

THE COUNTY COUNCIL

2018 got off to a brisk start. The cold weather has had Transport for Bucks busy filling grit bins and repairing potholes. With a road network of 125 kms many people in Chiltern Ridges have been reporting potholes across the Chilterns and I have spent today briefing TfB and planning road resurfacing up to 2021. I am hopeful that in 2018/19 we shall get more done than in previous years and I have relayed comments from the Parish Council.

Sajid Javid has said that he is encouraged by the excellent progress Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership has made in creating opportunities for local businesses to grow and prosper. Last year a record number of Bucks companies won the Queen's Award for Export Achievement. I am holding a Reception in February to celebrate their success, to encourage others to apply and representatives from the Office for the Queen's Award will be in attendance. If anyone wishes to come along on 22 February to find out more, do please let me know.

Buckinghamshire Business First has been successful in attracting inward investment, supported by the County Council and as a direct result 80 new companies have moved in, 2557 jobs have been created, 479 apprentices have been supported and £11 million has been added to the Buckinghamshire economy. Bucks is also an important education centre preparing our students for the workplace through our excellent schools and universities. Sir Anthony Seldon, who was guest speaker at the annual council dinner, talked about Buckingham University's plans to increase student numbers, widen its remit following the opening of its Medical school in 2016 and open new courses in Aylesbury and



further afield.

No doubt we are all following the collapse of Carillion in the hope that it may persuade the Government to rethink plans for HS2. One can only imagine that it would cost more than the predicted £57 billion at today's reckoning. The County Council is currently working with the parishes to ensure the safety of local roads during the construction period.

As I write, the Council budget for 2018/19 is being finalised whilst the cost of social care is rapidly increasing. Along with other council leaders, Martin Tett has written to Government asking for more money to care for our most needy residents. BCC has always worked closely with local hospitals to reduce bed blocking and our teams provide intensive after care at home, with social care accounting for nearly 70% of our gross spend.

Please get in touch if I can help raise your concerns with officers at County Hall.

Tricia Birchley

Pbirchley@buckscc.gov.uk 01296 651823

Sometimes it can be difficult to cope with the challenges that life throws at us so talking to a counsellor may be helpful.

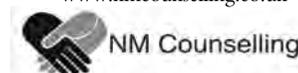
From my counselling practice near Wendover, I offer a warm, friendly and confidential space for you to talk through any problems you may be facing such as anxiety, stress, sadness, low self-esteem, anger and relationship difficulties.

For further information on how I may be able to help or to book an initial appointment, please contact me.

Natalie McGourty
MBACP, BA (Hons) Psychology

07976 968166

natalie@nmcounselling.co.uk
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HAWRIDGE AND CHOLESBURY C OF E SCHOOL



The new school play area

The children have returned to school fully refreshed following their Christmas holiday. Whilst they have been away the final work on the Early Years outdoor play area has been completed and looks fantastic. This work is the first part of a larger development allowing the school to make the most of its outdoor surroundings. The funding was kindly provided by the Oxford Diocese and the area comprises several different activity areas and is partially covered with a beautiful sensory canopy to protect the children against all weathers.

The school and the parents continue to raise money to further the building plans and the month of December was a great success with over £2,000 raised from a very busy Christmas Bazaar as well as the disco and a stall at Christmas in Chesham.

Bucks CC now produces performance tables for all primary and secondary schools and H&C was delighted to hear that, at the end of 2017, they came top of all schools in Buckinghamshire for reading! This is testament to the hard work put in by all the teaching staff at the school - as well as the children and parents.

As the children settle in to their new term, new curriculum letters have been sent out. Continuing the Christian ethos of the school, Easter will be featured and, with Spring around the corner, Year 2 will be looking forward to caring for their hatching chickens. Meanwhile Key Stage 1 will be looking at castles and the Middle Ages. A drawbridge has been set up outside one of the classes and the children will be visiting Mountfitchet castle and open-air museum. Other topics being studied include Europe, crime and punishment, transport, plants and trees, the Chinese New Year, ancient Egypt and the importance of the River Nile. Year 6 will be studying the Victorian ages and what life was like for

the children in this time. This will culminate with a Victorian Day, with the children and teachers dressing as the Victorians and replicating a Victorian school day. The only difference will be that, hopefully, corporal punishment will not be incorporated!

Outside school some of the children will be participating in a gymnastics festival at Dr Challoners High School; Reception will be visiting Chiltern Hills Academy for a day of 'Winter Olympics'; Years 5 and 6 will be spending two days at Green Park and Key Stage 1 will visit St Leonards Church to look at the stained-glassed windows and learn about the story they tell.

James Morris

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CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS W.I.

Wildlife photographer Tom Way showed some wonderful photographs from around the world in November and explained how his career developed. He also discussed the problems of poaching in Africa and the importance of conservation of endangered animals. There were many questions for Tom to answer.

The Pennies for Friendship collected over the year will be used by the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) organisation to help women in Guatemala improve their livelihoods by helping them to set up small businesses or find employment.

In December members enjoyed a very good Christmas Lunch at 'The Greyhound' in Wigginton. Rather fewer guests than usual were welcomed to our Christmas meeting and there were a number of our own members missing the party too. Despite this the festive atmosphere was brightened by the Hilltop Choir, who entertained with a selection of carols culminating in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' where everyone joined in with the action. A delicious cold buffet prepared by our committee was followed by mince pies made by members. Christmas cards were handed out from the postbox and everyone left the hall with a present from the basket at the door.

James Elliott Dip WCF Farriery services



07933 563045
Jameselliottfarrier@gmail.com

In January we had a presentation and demonstration on candle-making by Corinne Panton-Reynolds, "Miss Soy". Corinne talked about her hand-poured soy wax candles made from pure soybean to which natural fragrances are added, making the candles completely environmentally friendly. Members were impressed by what they learned, especially how easy they are to make and that refills to fit the container are available when the original candle has burned down.

On **Monday 19 February** Neil Rees will be talking about King Zog of Albania, 'The Glorious Exile', followed on **19 March** by Tracey Blaney, telling us about 'The Age-old Craft of Millinery'.

*Carol Henry can tell you more about our
WI: her number is 758435.*

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Just before Christmas Thames Valley Police had reports that telephone callers were introducing themselves as The Police and asking for money to be withdrawn from bank accounts. People have fallen for this scam. If there are doubts about the legitimacy of a telephone call the advice is to disconnect your telephone at the wall, plug the phone back in and call 101.

Thames Valley would like more members of the public to become involved in policing matters affecting communities by joining Community Forums, Independent Advisory Groups, as Cadet Leaders or Fraud and Cyber Crime Prevention Volunteers. If any of these interest you, please get in touch.
Shirley Blomfield (758314)



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY COMMONS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

AGM

The 50th AGM of the society was held on 21 November and the draft minutes, David Dennis's Chairman's report and the Treasurer's report are all available to view on our website www.hawridgeandcholesburycommons.org. In brief, David stood down as Chairman for personal reasons and Lindsay Griffin was re-elected Chairman, with David Barnard as Vice-Chairman, Janet Hopkinson as minutes Secretary and Ben Lewis as Treasurer. John Caple, Isobel Clark, David Dennis, Mark Hobbs, Veronica Mash and Tim Watts were all re-elected as Committee members and Nick Brown was elected to fill the vacant position, replacing Michelle Storm. David was warmly thanked for his work as Chair and, although he will be sadly missed in this role, we are very grateful that he has agreed to continue his work on the committee. One lasting legacy has been his tenacity in dealing with the leak in Pallett's Pond. The recent snow and rain has now filled it to a level well above where the leak was and, after further clearance of some of the invasive sweetgrass by James Jolliffe in November, we look forward to a healthier pond. After refreshments we were treated to a poem written and delivered by Isobel in a North country accent about Janet's

concerted efforts to keep the paths passable on the Commons. See below... Isobel's poem was followed by Michelle Storm's beautiful short film which is a celebration of the Commons and a tribute to everyone who has helped maintain them. We hope it will be available on the website soon.

Subscriptions always fall due at the AGM and for the seventh consecutive year we decided to keep subscriptions at £10 for individual members and £20 to include all members of a family. We are grateful to the majority of members who now pay by direct debit since this makes it much easier for all concerned. If you haven't already paid it is easy to do so by going to our website www.hawridgeandcholesbury.org and following the links. You do not have to subscribe to PayPal in order to use this. Alternatively, you can contact Ben Lewis treasurer.hccps@gmail.com for all other methods of payment.

Tree felling

The tree fellers are back and continuing the general thinning in many parts of the Commons in line with the Forestry Commission Plan and, together with our own Conservation Group, are clearing some of the debris left after the recent storms. Please remember that if you encounter a tree or branch across the road which is too difficult to deal with, it is the responsibility of Highways 01296 382416 (9am-5.30pm Mon-Thurs, 9am-5pm Friday) or 01296 486630 (out of hours and weekends). Where trees fall across a ride or path, we will try to deal with it when our volunteers can manage it. See below the proposed work for the next Conservation Group sessions. In line with Forestry Commission guidelines, wherever possible debris will be dragged into the woodland and left to rot down rather than burnt.

Draft Programme Feb – March 2018

Date	Location	Activity
4 Feb	By Forge in Hawridge	Clear fallen oak limbs near Shepherds Cottage. Bonfire
18 Feb	By Rose and Crown	Clear fallen holly branches on path parallel to Stoney Lane
4 March	Bottom of Horseblock Lane	Clear fallen branches on FP48E towards bottom of Horseblock Lane
18 March	By school, Hawridge	Clear fallen branches and cut down oak saplings opposite school entrance

Rubbish

Thank you to everyone who helps keep the Commons clear of the ever-increasing amount of rubbish which accumulates. On a recent blitz from the Cricket Club to Hawridge Hill, Janet collected four tyres, a broken car bumper and two sacks of bottles, cans etc. This included a copious supply of empty cans of Gordon's Gin & Tonic tossed on the way up Hawridge Hill. I wonder if the person who always used to throw out milk bottles there now has moved on to gin?

Janet was also disconcerted to find envelopes addressed to her on the Common despite having placed them in her paper box with a brick on top, keeping the lid in place. Obviously they escaped when the refuse collectors emptied the box. Please check on windy collection days - some of the rubbish might unwittingly be our own.



Janet

(heavily borrowed from Marriott Edgar)

*Janet were a bobby for mowing
She gave all her time to the sport
She played for the Hawridge Path Clearers
When they wanted footpaths nice and short*

*She started the club just this season
And she grumbled again and again
'Cos the only times she went mowing
She found it were pourin' wi' rain.*

*She felt as her talents were wasted
As each meet her job seemed to be
Nowt but taking the minutes for others
And doling out the biscuits and tea*

*She'd bought a sparkling new strimmer
With two plastic cords, not just the one
And the wheels made pushing it easy
Even though the hills weren't that much fun.*

*Well, the day of the mow dawned in splendour
And a beautiful morning it were
Wi' a fog drifting up from Chesham
And a drizzle o' rain in the err.*

*She mowed from May Cottage to Horseblock
And right down to the far bottom track
Then struggled up Drovers Path, and turned
Strimming all the paths all the way back.*

*She strimmed from just by Shepherds Cottage
Past the heather and near Linden's seat
Then up to the school at the summit.
Till all the paths were perfectly neat.*

*Now you've shown us what is possible
We walk the Commons with great pleasure
You've made all the difference to the paths
Janet, we salute your endeavours.*

CHOLESBURY CUM ST LEONARDS HORT SOC

It was an article in a weekend newspaper that made me aware that I have never written about the care of houseplants. I know that many people refuse to have them, many find them difficult, many have their particular likes and dislikes, but they are the subject of their own class at the annual Hort Soc show.

The article in question was discussing what I know as Christmas cactus but is strictly Schlumbergera truncata and x buckleyi. They now come in many colours, not just the traditional Christmas red. The other houseplant that many may have in the house now is the poinsettia – definitely a divider of opinion - but also available in many colours. Can you make a poinsettia do its stuff in later years? You can and I thought I was making progress this year having kept two in the greenhouse: initially under the bench but latterly on the bench, but then one day they keeled over - I've no idea why. I suppose it is the challenge that makes me keep trying. To come shortly are the amaryllis - a bulb with very showy flowers. These will flower again next year if rested through the summer, but the flowering period will be shorter and the blooms not as good - a bit like indoor hyacinths.

The Garden Club Show includes plants in flower, foliage plants, streptocarpus and African violets. The latter were always to be failsafe. However modern houses and, more particularly, double glazing and heating make keeping houseplants harder work in the winter than the summer. All of mine certainly need more water at this time of year and the flowers and leaves need regular attention. General advice includes keep away from direct sunshine, even in

winter, not to trap them behind curtains, and water when the surface is dry - but do not allow the pot to stand in water for any length of time. But, and it is a big but, every type of plant has different needs. Most come with some care instructions: read them and you should not go wrong.

I have not mentioned the orchid – another plant which is loved and hated in equal measure. The flowers can last for months but the plants themselves, unless you are an epiphyte aficionado are not very attractive. I am sure there are approved means of getting them to flower again but I take no special steps other than to mist them from time to time and apply a little fertiliser. I never repot as they are so very particular as to what they have their roots in.

Food for thought, I hope, and we will return outdoors in the next issue. The 2018 programme is in the process of being finalised. There will be a repeat visit to view Carys and Eric Gadsden's superb collection of snowdrops towards the end of February – the date will be announced when we know what the snowdrops and weather are planning! The annual horticultural and craft show will be at Hawridge and Cholesbury School on Saturday 1st September. The new classes for photography and craft are already available at www.cholesbury.org on the Horticultural Society page, so you have the opportunity to work on them over the winter months.

If you would like to join the Society, email the Secretary Diana Garner on montana@cholesbury.net or phone 758347. The annual subscription is £2.00 per person – very reasonable!

Sarah Tricks

WIGGINTON SHOP

Wigginton has been without a village shop for 15 years or more and, coupled with a lack of local facilities across the Hilltop Villages, a team of volunteers got together to look at the viability of establishing a community-run store and how having this would benefit neighbouring villages.

The Wigginton Shop team has recently revealed its plans and launched its share offer at a public exhibition and supplier festival, focusing on quality local producers, over the weekend of the 3rd and 4th February at Wigginton Village Hall. The share offer is now open for a month and more details can be found on the shop's website (see below).

Local suppliers included Puddingstone Gin, Geoff's Honey, Gill Newton's Cakes, Chiltern Candles, Ann Buckley's Flowers, Alice Bradshaw's gluten-free bakes, and the Sunnyside Trust.

The shop's share offer is an important step towards being able to build the shop. The minimum investment that can be made is £250 and the shop needs to raise a minimum of £68,000 from this offer. We believe we can reach this if we all come together as a community, in the way that we have already done so, and shown so much support throughout our campaign and fundraising activities. A share offer prospectus and business plan are available and they have been accredited with a community shares standard.

Unlike commercial businesses, the Wigginton Shop will rely on volunteers for the day-to-day running, which substantially reduces operating costs and, as it is established as a Community Benefits Society, the primary purpose is to reinvest profits into community projects.

While Wigginton may be close to amenities in Chesham, Tring and

Berkhamsted, a trip to the towns can prove to be time prohibitive for the Hilltop Villagers. This is an opportunity to reinstate a shop for all to benefit from.

For more info email info@wiggintonshop.org.uk, phone 07858 583833, or visit www.wiggintonshop.org.uk

LINDENGATE

"We are regularly told by our Gardeners, their families and supporters how much Lindengate means to them and we are looking forward to growing the service further in 2018"...



Lindengate is now a very active participant in three Partnership Boards (Mental Health, Autism, Dementia), responsible for reviewing mental health provision and needs across the county. The Charity has recently been invited to join the county's Health and Wellbeing Group. Lindengate is also a member of the Independent Advisory Group for Thames Valley Police, covering Aylesbury Vale, and is a lead organiser for a local dementia initiative 'Wendover Dementia Action Alliance'. Without the support of the local community, business and individuals, this would not have been possible.

Lindengate, Wyvale Garden Centre, Wendover. Phone: 01296 622443, email: info@lindengate.org.uk

HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CRICKET CLUB

2017 review

Looking back on 2017, there is no doubt that the most thrilling event of the year was the construction of the new, state-of-the-art two-lane practice net. This facility, voted for at last January's AGM, was constructed early enough in the playing season for members to be able to use from late June onwards. The total cost of £23,000 was finally paid off fully in December, with the help of grants from Bucks Masons (through the good offices of the Heart of Bucks Foundation), Tesco's 'Bags of Help', the Chiltern District Council and the Parish Council. This project is the club's biggest capital investment ever. To pay it off in one season says a lot!

On the playing front, the club played in the Mid-Bucks First Division after having been demoted at the end of the previous season. As had happened in 2016, we struggled at times to field a league team, especially over holiday periods. Long gone are the days of fielding two Saturday league teams. In today's world, there are



many other competing attractions to lure players away. Although our membership is large enough to field a couple of teams, it seems as if members no longer commit to play regularly, which puts considerable pressure on the team captains from week to week.

The club therefore wants to encourage those who would fancy a game, to give it a try. There are a number of fathers of colts who have demonstrated a lot of talent in occasional friendlies, so this is a big appeal to them to pitch in.

Ben Drane was appointed Sunday Captain in 2017, a big challenge for this up-and-coming cricketer. He made a promising start. With his travelling commitments in the Air Force, his availability may become an issue in 2018.

Colts cricket was again a lot of fun, with the club fielding five teams in the South Bucks junior cricket leagues, from Under 9 to Under13. The U11 team won their South Bucks League, following on from their success at the U10 level. With a membership of around 70 colts, it has been a good season. So congratulations to Ian Hames, Alex Neal, James Morris, Neil Jones, Steve White, Digger Reading and the various team managers.

The Village Picnic was again a great success, jointly hosted with the Commons Preservation Society. A Colts match between the club's U9 team and Ballinger was again enjoyed by all.

Boxing Day Hunt

The Boxing Day meet on the Common took place in fine weather, allowing visitors to the clubhouse to sit out and enjoy the facilities. This has become an important event in the club's calendar, for it allows members to come out for some mid-winter fellowship.

The year ahead

The big news for our juniors is that the club has registered for the English Cricket Board's All Stars Cricket Program, which is targeted at 5 to 8-year-olds. Alexis Shead, one of the club's best cricketers, has volunteered to be the club's 'Activator'. This fills a big gap for the club, as in the past it has proved difficult to find the right level of engagement and stimulation for our youngest members. The main emphasis is for youngsters to play organised games in 45-minute weekly sessions, involving parents wherever possible.

Alexis will need engagement from parents. Feedback from other clubs that participated in the first year of All Stars

Cricket in 2017 has been extremely positive, from both children and parents. With the emphasis being on having fun, it looks exciting. It is likely that these sessions will take place on a weekend morning, but this has still to be confirmed.

The Saturday League team will again play in the Mid-Bucks First Division. Last season we took the opportunity to blood a number of junior cricketers. This resulted in four teenagers scoring half-centuries in league cricket: a wonderful development which bodes well for the future.

New members needed!

As mentioned earlier, the club needs more senior playing members. Also, we need to keep replenishing the pool of parents who help with colts cricket. So parents, please think about it!

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

David Hawkes

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HOSPICE NEWS

Last year saw record numbers of people turn out to support the Hospice of St Francis by taking part in many fundraising events.



People say that these events put the 'fun' into fundraising and to prove it more than 8,000 people ran, walked, cycled or jumped out of a plane to support the Hospice in 2017, raising vital funds to help provide care and support to more than 2,000 people affected by life-limiting illness across West Herts and South Bucks.

A staggering 900 people braved mud and obstacles at the Mud Pack Challenge, making the event a sell-out for the first time in its four-year history, while more than 3,500 people danced their way through colourful, frothy foam at two

Bubble Rush events. The ever-popular Garden Party in the stunning grounds of Ashridge House saw a record crowd of nearly 4,000 people soak up the atmosphere at the biggest community event in the fundraising calendar.

The Hospice couldn't continue to provide the services without the inspirational efforts of all its supporters and this year hopes even more of you will join in as it gears up for the 2018 calendar of events and challenges.

For more information on all Hospice events visit www.stfrancis.org.uk/support-us/events

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

On Friday 2 February our talk is The Russells and Chenies Palace with Nicola Allen,

who is archivist for the Bedford Estates, which includes Woburn Abbey and Chenies Palace.

The Russell family have occupied Chenies since the early part of the 16th century during which they benefited from royal patronage and visits by Henrys VII and VIII. However, the Russells also found themselves sailing close to the wind with monarchs, being on the wrong side of a rebellion against Elizabeth I and fighting on both sides in the English Civil War.

As with all LHG meetings we like to think that talks offered to audiences are good value and, above all, 'never knowingly undersold'. So the talk on Friday 2 March is of particular relevance as we will hear about The History of John Lewis. Our speaker is Judy Faraday, who is responsible for managing the John Lewis Heritage Centre. By the way, John Lewis first used the above strap line over ninety years ago, in 1925.

There is a complete contrast with the talk on Friday 6 April entitled Buckinghamshire Spies and Subversives. Denise Beddows is a Bucks-based researcher with an interest in history and, as DJ Kelly, she writes biographies and non-fiction. Her latest book is the title of this talk.

All meetings take place at St Leonards Parish Hall. Please arrive at 8pm for a prompt 8.15pm start. For visitors, entrance fee is just £4 at the door.

If you are new to the area or have just not got around to attending, why not come along to one of our meetings?

Chris Brown (758890)
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Good Neighbours Group

Severe weather car scheme

As a bout of severe weather is still possible, the Car Scheme continues on standby until the end of March from 9am – 7pm. Thanks to locals who volunteer to support the Car Scheme. The special telephone number to use to contact the scheme coordinators is: **0845 8 735 737. Keep this number handy by the phone or, if out and about, on your mobile.**

Gentle exercise for older adults

The classes started again on Wednesday 17 January. Classes run from 11.00 to 11.45am. They are at Cholesbury Village Hall and ladies and gentlemen are all welcome. The 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. Cost is £28.50 for each set of six sessions. **Contact Elayne Hughes on 07880 975 100 or 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: **goodneighbours@cholesbury.com** or telephone **758890**.

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Be heart-ready for Lent in 2018

This year there is a very special day on February 14th. It's special because it is Valentine's Day – and millions of cards and gifts will be shared. But it's special in the church because it is Ash Wednesday – and that marks the beginning of the six weeks called Lent.

Lent is the time when Christians take time to try and live God's way, the way that Jesus showed us. At the end of Lent comes Good Friday, when we remember the big love of God on the cross where Jesus died. Then comes Easter day, when we celebrate that love brings life and joy to the world.

Valentine's Day is about love – and so is Lent. There are three things that we can do with the big love that is at the heart of Lent and Valentine's Day...

• *Big love says thank you: Valentine's Day helps us to tell people we love them. Sometimes that is people who know – and sometimes it is a surprise to people who don't know! It can be about romantic love between couples – but this Valentine's Day why not say thank you for other kinds of love as well? A special card for a grandparent or a child, a chocolate heart left on the desk of a teacher or colleague. All these remind us to say thank you for love.*

• *Big love gives up: Lent is traditionally a time when Christians try to live carefully, and follow the example of Jesus more closely. This often means giving up things for a season; things like chocolate or crisps, social media or TV watching. Love often means giving up something for other people – being unselfish and generous,*

thoughtful and kind. As a family, you could decide to give up something for Lent and every time you go to do that thing, instead take a second to pray for God's love to be known in the world.

• *Big love takes up: Lent is also a time when Christians decide to take up new ways of living, perhaps giving more away, praying more, reading the Bible more. Sometimes it means doing something that takes a bit of extra time or effort. Love goes the extra mile for other people, taking time to listen, to do new things together and to make a difference to the world. As a family, you could decide to take up something for Lent – doing something together that shares God's love with others. Check out live Lent for ideas on how to start doing something new.*

A prayer for Valentine's/Lent:

"Dear God – thank you for all the love in our lives and in the world. Help us to share that love with other people each and every day."

"Dear God, give us courage to let go of things this Lent. Help us to discover more about following Jesus and sharing his love in the world."

"Dear God, as we think about your big love for us this Lent, help us to take up new ways of living. Help us to live generously and make a difference to others.

Amen."

Deiniol Heywood, Area Dean

SERVICES AND CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE FOUR PARISHES: FEBRUARY - MARCH 2018

DATE	DAY	St John the Baptist THELEE		St Leonard's ST LEONARDS		St Laurence CHOLESBURY		St Mary's HAWRIDGE	
4 FEB	Second before Lent	8.00am 10.00 am	Holy Communion All Age Worship	11.00 am	Parish Communion with Sunday School	9.30 am	BCP Holy Communion	9.30 am	Family Service
11 FEB	Sunday before Lent	10.00 am	Parish Communion	10.00 am - Shared Matins Service at Cholesbury					
14 FEB	Ash Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion	7.30 pm - Shared CW Communion at Hawridge					
18 FEB	Lent 1	10.00 am	Matins Lay Led	10.00 am - Shared CW Communion at St Leonard's					
25 FEB	Lent 2	10.00 am	Parish Communion	9.00 am - Breakfast Service at St Leonard's				11.00 am	CW Parish Communion
4 MAR	Lent 3	8.00 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion All Age Worship At LCM	11.00 am	Parish Communion with Sunday School and Christening	9.30 am	BCP Holy Communion	9.30 am	Family Service
11 MAR	MOTHERING SUNDAY	10.00 am Joint Four Parish Mothering Sunday Service at The Lee - Lead by Bishop Alan of Buckingham							
18 MAR	PASSION SUNDAY	10.00 am	Matins	10.00 am - Shared Three Parish Matins at Hawridge					
25 MAR	PALMSUNDAY	10.00 am	Parish Communion	10.00 am - Shared Parish Communion at St Leonard's					
26-29 MAR	HOLY WEEK	Wed 7.30 pm	Compline	Maundy Thursday 7.30pm	Joint Parish Communion	Monday 7.30 pm	Compline	Tuesday 7.30 pm	Compline
30 MAR	GOOD FRIDAY	Midday	Devotional Service	10.00 am 10.30 am	Sunday School Easter Garden Walk of Witness	11.45 am Devotional Service at Cholesbury			
1 APR	EASTER DAY	10.00 am	Parish Communion	9.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Family Service	9.30 am	Parish Communion	11.00 am 5.00 pm	Parish Communion Easter Praise
<p>Please note: Rev David Burgess and Mr Tony Eccleston are both on sick leave for most of this period following surgery and will not be available.</p> <p>A number of services on this rota have therefore been changed from the regular worship pattern in the four churches.</p>		<p>Parish Secretary Peggy Sear 07804 697948 peggysear@icloud.com</p>		<p>Churchwardens The Lee Trevor Pearce 01494 837601 trevorm.pearce@hotmail.co.uk</p> <p>Rod Neal 01494 837264 rodandjane.neal@googlemail.com</p>		<p>Churchwardens (contd.) Hawridge Elizabeth Tomlin 01494 758214</p> <p>Cholesbury John Farmer 01494 758715 jandb.farmer@btopenworld.com</p>		<p>Churchwardens (contd.) St Leonards Mark Lane 01494 837166 markrlane@hotmail.com</p> <p>James Nisbet 01296 624337 jamesnisbet@btinternet.com</p>	

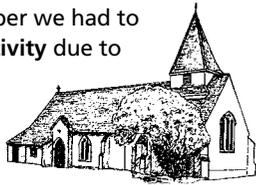
CHURCH MATTERS

We continue to pray for David and his return to health. A continued struggle still ensues. Never in the Hilltop Villages have so many people prayed for David on a regular basis - the power of prayer is very evident - and would urge you to continue praying for his continued healing. We thank you for your immense support thus far.

ST LEONARDS

Early in December we had to cancel the **Nativity** due to the huge and unexpected amount of snow which had fallen and turned to ice. This was really sad as Barbara had managed to get together quite a group of younger children who were looking forward to being a part of it. We much look forward to them joining in next year.

For the **Carol Service** on 17 December the church, as ever, was simply and beautifully decorated with greenery, candles and most importantly, The Crib. This group of ancient figures never fails to fascinate children and adults alike. There was a huge tree, thanks to the generosity of the Matthews family, lit with hundreds of tiny lights



which glowed in the half light as people arrived. Maxi Maintzer sang the solo most beautifully as the children processed behind him with their candles. We were fortunate to have the Hilltop Choir again which, although sadly depleted due to illness, made a lovely contribution to the service. In David's absence the Revd. Ian Ogilvie kindly officiated and the telling again of the age-old story really led us into Christmas.

Alan Davies was with us again for the **Midnight Service** and the beautiful white lilies added to the candles and the greenery made it, as always, very special.

The Family Service, led by Michael Joseph, was extremely well attended on **Christmas Morning** and at the end neither young nor old needed encouragement to choose one or two chocolates before dashing home to open presents and enjoy their Christmas Lunch!

There was an excellent turn-out for our Christmas **Tea-party** on Wednesday 20th and, as has become traditional for the December Teas, we began in Church with a few Carols and a brief talk from Richard Charles. We always learn a lot from Richard's few simply chosen words and this time he read from a tiny book 'A Christmas Celebration' which included a passage from Jonathan Dimbleby's biography of his father. A heart-warming and interesting few pages which made us realise that, whoever we are, the gathering of the family and the traditions associated with Christmas don't change. We then moved into the Church Room where the Christmas tea table looked wonderfully



The St Leonards Crib

festive with Anne Lake's Christmas cake in the middle, Barbara Burles' delicious mince pies and Sue Hetherington's gorgeous fluffy scones with jam and cream to start us off. We were a record number and no-one left without a small plant - a deep pink cyclamen - to remind them of the happy occasion. We meet again in the Church Room on **Wednesday 28 February** and again on **Wednesday 28 March**. We much look forward to seeing you all again and if there are newcomers - whether old or new residents - we welcome you all. A number of on-going friendships have come as a result of these friendly gatherings. Transport is always available - just ring Anne Lake on 01296 620169 or Anne Butterworth on 01494 758700.

Prayer Group - If we needed evidence of the power of prayer we have seen it not just for David but for Alexandra Sheffield who was so very seriously damaged by a kick from a horse just before Christmas. If there are any of you who would like to be a part of a Prayer Group we would welcome your support. All that this involves is your agreement and your email so that when in need we can contact you with details of the person who really needs special prayers. Your help here would be hugely appreciated.

Easter is early this year - Easter Sunday is on 1st April. All details of our services can be found in the Easter Card which comes with the April/May edition of Hilltop News.

CHOLESBURY

In the last two months we again welcomed Alan Davis from Chesham for our first Sunday service and Ivor on the third Sunday.



Our Christmas events were led by David Blackmore from Weston Turville and David Holloway from Pitstone. We are fortunate to have a good pool of ministers available during David's absence.

Autumn was glorious this year and our **flower arrangers** saw the potential with wonderfully creative use of autumn colours including five-foot-high arrangements in the window space. We have seen some really imaginative displays throughout 2017 and the PCC send a big thank you to Dorritt Cartmell and her team. There was competition for natural colour at our service on 19 November when the church drive and Camp were at "peak golden" with carpets of newly fallen leaves.

A **Candlelit Carol Service** at six o'clock on a December evening in a village without street lights could be a setting for Midsomer Murders! Many a TV writer would smile at Cholesbury's experience on 10 December. The previous night delivered 6-8" of snow; a large yew branch had come down blocking most of the church drive and there was a power cut at 5.15pm. Fortunately, the heating had come on earlier; the fallen branch was hastily sawn up; David Blackmore got through from Weston Turville and Richard Charles arrived promptly. By some quirk of three-phase power, the power cut affected the church but not the vestry so an extension cable to the organ allowed Richard to play eleven Carols for us.

Maggie Carruthers had advertised the service on Grapevine with the line "bring a torch" so everyone was equipped to sing.

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We shared a congregational service as there was no choir or even the monastic chants of ten years ago. Thank you to Phil Harrison for warming the mulled wine in the vestry. Attendance was lower but many enjoyed the truly candlelit service, enjoyed the readings and sung traditional carols.

In March we will bring back our Elizabethan **Chalice** for communion services because our newer chalice will be on display at the Goldsmiths Hall for three months. We had not appreciated that the craftsman who made the chalice in his earlier years went on to become Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company and will be honoured by a major exhibition. More details in a separate article in this Hilltop News.

Our Fundraising year starts with the annual **Quiz** which we will hold on **10 March** at St Leonard's Hall starting at 7.30. More details will be published later but there will definitely be tables of eight.

The following **Sunday 11 March** is **Mother's Day** and we are delighted that Bishop Alan will come to the Hilltop Parishes as part of his cover during David's absence. However, the service will be a four-parish occasion at The Lee and we will not, unfortunately, have our usual children's event in St Laurence church.

Easter is early this year on **1st April**. This year we will arrange all the traditional celebrations for this great Festival including the Good Friday Walk of Witness followed by a meditation in church. On Easter Day we will celebrate Communion and enjoy the Easter hymns. All details will be in the Easter Card sent with the next issue of Hilltop News.

HAWRIDGE

Christmas, of course, is a very busy time for all the Hilltop Churches and our Christmas Eve service was no exception. As usual we welcomed families from Hawridge and further afield, many with extended family in tow for the festive period and it was lovely to see the Church filled to capacity with standing room only. Many of us had warmed up our voices earlier in the week at the pub carol singing in The Full Moon where Sue and Clive Carey once again guided us through a great evening of Carols and over £80 was raised for Save the Children. Thanks to the pub for accommodating us once again and to everyone for turning up and making it such a good evening.



Our '**13 Days of Christmas**' raffle certainly proved popular once again and we raised over £500 which was earmarked for a new cordless Dyson to make the weekly chore of keeping the church clean much easier for the team of ladies involved. With such a wonderful total we knew we could also get some vital work done on the Church railings and imagine our delight when a very lovely local lady got in touch and said that her son, with work connections to Dyson, could get us a hefty discount on the vacuum we wanted. So this has been a really great outcome for us. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and to those who generously donated to the prizes.

On Sunday 7 January we had the first of our **Short & Sharp services** which was a true village affair with Elizabeth and Joan leading the service between them. Coffee and mince pies after the service was most welcome and gave everyone the chance to catch up with news after Christmas.

Looking ahead, there will be our annual **Quiz** sometime in February, although we have not yet set a date. Details will appear on Grapevine and the Hilltop Villages Facebook page, but if these aren't accessible to you then please call 01494 757059 and we can let you know all the details.

The **PCC AGM** will be held on **12 March** and everyone is most welcome to attend (at the Church) to hear what we have achieved during 2017 and our big spending plans for 2018 and beyond.

We continue to send prayers and good wishes to David and to Wesley and their respective families.

Please note: We continue our search for a Treasurer as Sylvia has now been acting in a 'temporary' capacity for some while. It is not onerous and the PCC meetings are most convivial. If you would like to know more please contact hawridgechurch@gmail.com for full details.

VILLAGE CAROLS

Villagers of all ages met on Buckland Common just before Christmas. Organised again by Shelagh England, the evening was supported by many generous people. Richard Charles provided music, a portable log fire and a gazebo to shelter the pop-up pub, soup, mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies supplied by other villagers. A healthy turn-out on a bitterly cold, frosty night showed what a fantastic community we have in the villages. Although not a fund-raising event, £160 was raised and shared between the Hospice of St Francis at Berkhamsted and the Chesham Food Bank.

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also served in Africa, in WW1. He started his career in the pharmaceutical industry in Essex where he worked for five years before spending two years in Frankfurt, returning to live first in Gerrards Cross and then Little Chalfont. He worked for Hoechst for 25 years where he was well-respected and influential. He was especially highly valued for the way he helped others to develop their potential. David and Jean lived in Cholesbury for the past 21 years.

At the funeral his sons, Douglas and Gordon, spoke movingly and with quiet pride of their father, his gentleness, wonderful sense of humour and incredible inventiveness. David was first of all a family man. He put all his many talents at the disposal of the family, which includes four grandsons and three great grandsons (the family is still waiting for a girl!)

He loved gardening, where he demonstrated the same inventiveness and orderliness. His greenhouse was impeccable. All the plants were carefully labelled (he was a great dahlia enthusiast). His homemade watering systems worked and he produced a constant supply of vegetables all summer long, which he gave generously to his neighbours. In retirement he was always busy with various projects about the house and the garden, but also found the time to take an Honours degree through the Open University in English Literature.

Gordon noted that in the many condolences the family received it was often remarked that David was a quiet man, with a ready smile, a great sense of humour, a twinkle in his eye and a true gentleman. For both his sons he provided a model they are glad to live by and to pass on to their own sons. There can hardly be a greater tribute than that.

David John Frisby

1931-2017

David died just before Christmas. The well-attended funeral was testament to how loved and respected he was by many people and to his capacity to make and keep the friends he had as a boy, at work and through his hobbies of golf and sailing.

David was born in Scotland, an only child, which perhaps accounted for his independence and resourcefulness. He became a keen scout and a rugby player. David studied pharmacy at Glasgow University where he met Jean, who has been a rock for him in his last illness. They would have been married 60 years this year.

David did his National Service in Suez, in the medical corps because of his background in pharmacy. His father had


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Winter pub news



The good news is that we can see one or two of our pubs that have been hibernating coming back into service – eventually. The bad news is that one of the remaining trading pubs is behaving in a most bizarre manner. In the meantime, the two independent free houses that are well managed are thriving.

From my recent foray into the fairly transparent realm of public house and hospitality economics, I can see some problems with the approach being taken by some. In modern times it is rare for a public house to have sufficient revenues to support the overheads, management and capital cost to survive without a regular food service to supplement the drinking establishment. For one thing, gross margins on food service should be higher than on drinks.

Another characteristic of successful pubs is that they have had stable, consistent management teams who have some “skin in the game”. It takes time for management to identify who all their potential clientele are and then figure out what would attract them to patronise their business on a regular basis. It also helps to have courteous and even affable front-of-house staff that make customers feel welcome and even loved.

The success of the **Black Horse Inn** is a tribute to the insight of its owners and management team which has taken it from a languid pubco property to free house now trading at several multiples of its previous volumes. They can now provide employment for nearly 30 people. Since

planning permission for core expansion has not been forthcoming, growing trade has been developed in the outside bar, garden area and the Barn that accommodates about 50 people. In fact, the Barn is where the Six Nations rugby will be shown in February.

John is a new head chef who has recently worked at the Bell in Stoke Mandeville. He will carry on with the provision of the popular pies that are made fresh on site. The Vegan dinners will continue on the second Wednesday of each month when they regularly sell out several weeks in advance. The next one will fall on Valentine’s Day in February.

The pub has a comprehensive web site at www.theblackhorsechesham.co.uk where all events for the month ahead are promoted. Pub Quiz Nights are every Tuesday except the first one of each month. Easter weekend will see the reopening of the garden season with a DJ’s “Shake Your Booty” music on Saturday 31 March. On Easter Sunday there will be three Easter egg hunts in the afternoon and early evening - then opening from noon to 7pm on Monday.

The **Old Swan’s** menus are either seasonal or adjusted for special dates such as Mothers’ Day (11 March) and Easter. There is now a new winter menu, and the spring version will begin on 16 March. They can be viewed on the web site at www.theoldswanpub.co.uk. In addition, regular features are ‘market specials’ every Wednesday and steak nights on Thursdays.

Since Strongbow Cloudy Apple has had limited appeal to cider drinkers, it will be

replaced with a more authentic one shortly. Guest beers continue to be selected from ‘session beers’ with lower ABV ratings. Since Jane is chronically short of competent candidates for bar staff, anyone able and interested should contact her at the Old Swan.

Progress in bringing the **White Lion** back on line as a trading pub has suffered an unplanned setback. Whilst plans for refurbishing the building were getting a nod of approval from the Chiltern District Council planning officers last year without a need for formal planning applications, that is no longer the case. A new officer has been asking for formal applications to be made and further surveys to be carried out by historic building specialists. The hoped-for Easter opening has just faded into an uncertain distant future.

The CDC Planning Committee voted to approve application CH/2017/1361/FA with a few reasonable conditions at their January meeting. This means that the **Bull** pub building can be extended to provide expanded dining facilities and the garden extended into agricultural land with permission to create a purpose-built children’s day nursery with its own car parking. This exceptional permission for commercial building on Green Belt land was granted based on “special circumstances” and came despite the case officer’s recommendation for refusal on the grounds of Green Belt restrictions.

Not much seems to be forthcoming about the future of the **Rose and Crown** in Hawridge. Although Drake Property has offered the property for lease as a public house, there is little sign of active marketing by them or the owner. Rental rates in the region of £40,000pa on a full maintaining and insuring basis may be a deterrent to potential tenants.

When it comes to commenting on the **Full Moon**, words just about fail me. What can be stated is that the kitchen was closed in early January and the operating hours of the bar were curtailed. There is evidence that all but one staff members ceased regular employment in the pub. There is no evidence of construction on the annex accommodation resuming in January. All but two real ale pumps and two lager lines are inactive. When a local person asked if the property was about to come on the market, the answer was “not for sale”.

Bill Ingram



Wrong Words, Lost Words, New Words and a Book of Lost Words

If you know of the environmental campaigner and journalist George Monbiot you might agree he is somewhat a Bovril character. In other words you either love him or hate him. I admit I'm not his greatest fan. More often than not when he pops up on the TV to talk about the latest crisis with the planet I try my best but after a couple of minutes I'm often shouting at the screen and reaching for the remote control. He writes frequently for the Guardian where I find he is much more palatable.

Last year I came across one of his more grounded articles where he was bemoaning the creation of **Wrong Words** by scientists. By this I mean unattractive or overly technical words (aka jargon) when describing almost any aspect of the natural world. As a consequence, Monbiot argues that many people feel at best confused or worse excluded. One of many examples he gives is 'an improved pasture'. We can all probably agree on what a 'pasture' looks like but what is it when it's been 'improved'. Imagine a manicured golf green treated with weed killer or a 100-acre field sown with a single species of grass grown for silage. How about a 'no take zone'? Well it could be anything but it turns out to be an area of the sea demarcated on maps where fishing is not permitted.

On a more prosaic basis Monbiot suggests: "If Moses had promised the Israelites a land flowing with mammary secretions and insect vomit, would they have followed him into Canaan? Though this means milk and honey, I doubt it would have inspired them."

Meanwhile, the trail in search of **Lost Words** actually stretches back quite a few years, so for now I will start in December last with a short item on the BBC2 news and current affairs programme

Newsnight. The piece I am referring to was presented by Robert Macfarlane, a writer and academic with an overarching passion for promoting knowledge and improving understanding of the natural world. During the presentation he spoke about a research paper by Cambridge University conservationists who found that 8 to 11-year-old schoolchildren were 'substantially better' at identifying Pokemon characters than common examples of British wildlife.

Whilst the children could name 80% of 100 Pokemon characters they could name less than 50% of 100 common wildlife examples. The point I think he is making is that in contrast to probably 30 and certainly 40 years ago the range and variety of words relating to nature recognised by children has been falling. The researchers speculated there might be a correlation between the different levels of recognition and the proportions of time spent playing 'computer games' and trading Pokemon cards compared to the time spent reading stories and looking at picture books about animals or plants and being outside experiencing nature first hand.

Perhaps, on its own, this might seem a bit of a stretch and not conclusive proof that children's falling awareness of nature is caused by their changing recreational

habits. So those seeking some corroboration fell upon the idea of comparing editions of the Oxford Junior Encyclopaedia, published by OUP. Unlike the senior version which expands over time to accommodate new words, the junior edition is revised periodically with its content adjusted to reflect changes in the frequency of word usage. Robert Macfarlane and friends discovered that when the junior dictionary was revised in 2007 at least 120 nature-related words were removed en masse, being replaced by a similar number of 'cool new words', as Robert describes them. The removed words are...

adder, ass, beaver, boar, budgerigar, bullock, cheetah, colt, corgi, cygnet, doe, drake, ferret, gerbil, goldfish, guinea pig, hamster, heron, herring, kingfisher, lark, leopard, lobster, magpie, minnow, mussel, newt, otter, ox, oyster, panther, pelican, piglet, plaice, poodle, porcupine, porpoise, raven, spaniel, starling, stoat, stork, terrapin, thrush, weasel, wren. Acorn, allotment, almond, apricot, ash, bacon, beech, beetroot, blackberry, blacksmith, bloom, bluebell, bramble, bran, bray, bridle, brook, buttercup, canary, canter, carnation, catkin, cauliflower, chestnut, clover, conker, county, cowslip, crocus, dandelion, diesel, fern, fungus, gooseberry, gorse, hazel, hazelnut, heather, holly, horse chestnut, ivy, lavender, leek, liquorice, manger, marzipan, melon, minnow, mint, nectar, nectarine, oats, pansy, parsnip, pasture, poppy, porridge, poultry, primrose, prune, radish, rhubarb, sheaf, spinach, sycamore, tulip, turnip, vine, violet, walnut and willow.

There is nothing wrong with the new words, (eg: blog, broadband, MP3 player, voicemail, citizenship, EU, biodegradable, emotion, dyslexic, Euro) - just a bit sad they have bounced out the older words.

The good news as far as these relegated words are concerned is that there is a groundswell of opinion led by well-known authors and naturalists campaigning to get OUP to restore a good number of

these words. A petition has been started that has already reached 180,000. You can read more about the campaign at: www.naturemusicpoetry.com/.

Meanwhile, even some of the newer words are being seen less frequently. One wonders if there will be much use for 'euro' in a couple of years!

A word of caution. I suspect it's easy to look back on our childhood with rose-tinted glasses as have the older generations before us. I suspect nature lore was not as widely held in awareness as we might like to believe. For instance, there is evidence from Victorian and Edwardian diaries that the urban-dwelling upper and middle classes might have only seen value in limited learning about nature as part of lessons in drawing animals or plants.

New Words Needed! We have plenty of words describing collections of birds and animals, such as a murder of crows, or a colony of ants, etc. But there seems to be none in common usage for individual species of tree. So, having given it little thought I came up with: a bodge of beeches. Thinking about some of our other more abundant local trees, how about coming up with names for collections of ash, oak, chestnut and blackthorn?

A Book of Lost Words. If you are looking for a nature book to introduce a child (or adult) to nature I can strongly recommend a beautifully illustrated book whose title *The Lost Words*, by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris, is an attempt to reintroduce a few of these relegated nature words into common and everyday usage.

That's all this time – comments and questions to chrisbrown@rayshill.com



Cholesbury's chalices

The chalice used in St Laurence church, Cholesbury will be on display in London later this year. It was made by a young silversmith called Grant Macdonald who rose to become Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths Company and a Royal Warrant holder. He will be honoured in a major exhibition of his work and the Cholesbury chalice will be included.

The most important service in the Christian Church is Communion when we remember the Last Supper celebrated by Jesus before his crucifixion. During the service we share wine, as commanded by Jesus, from a cup that is often called a chalice. Cholesbury has two chalices, one from the 16th century and one from the 20th.

The 16th century saw many changes in church procedures as the Christian faith was renewed in the Reformation. The medieval church had restricted the drinking of wine to the priest but reformed churches, believing in the priesthood of all believers, decided everyone should share the wine and a bigger cup was needed. In

England this reform was introduced in 1548 with many London churches acquiring a chalice by 1552. Buckinghamshire was, in Tudor times, part of Lincoln Diocese and Cholesbury's chalice was made in 1577. It is monogrammed HS and the maker was probably Henry Sutton. The chalice has beautiful decoration of incised strapwork with stylised foliage and the bowl is narrow and deep compared to modern standards. This lovely Elizabethan chalice was in regular use for almost 400 years and is still used for special occasions.

In 1973 a new and bigger chalice was presented to St Laurence church in memory of Arthur Knowles-Brown, who lived in Moat House. Arthur was a Londoner but

in 1968 moved to Cholesbury with his wife Marjorie to join his son Peter and his family. Arthur died in 1971 and the engraving on the chalice base reads 'In memory of Arthur Knowles-Brown of Hampstead and Cholesbury'.

The Knowles-Brown family first came to Cholesbury in 1964 when Peter and Ann moved from Elstree to Braziers End Farm and converted the yard and buildings into their home. The family were active in the village and Peter is affectionately remembered as the first Chairman of the H&C Commons Preservation Society. Arthur and Peter worked in the family firm that had been established by Peter's grandfather, Henry, in Hampstead. This business was a jewellers/silversmiths/optician and made clocks and watches. Arthur's grandson, Andrew, also joined the business and I am indebted to him and his mother Ann for information on their family for this article.

Peter Knowles-Brown employed Carol McCrone, a family friend, at his shop and, when she was at University, she met a

young silversmith called Grant Macdonald. They married, set up business together and many of their items were sold through the Knowles-Brown shop. In 1972, Grant was commissioned to make the Cholesbury chalice in memory of Arthur - Peter had a fine eye for craftsmanship.

Peter and Ann had three children: twin daughters Lindsey and Clare, and Andrew. The daughters and Andrew's future wife, Jacky, all went to Lowndes School whose head was Miss Grosstephan, later Mrs Money, who lived next door to Moat House. Members of the family lived at different times in five houses in the area including No 2 Post Office Cottages (Clare), Stone Cottage (Andrew), Cherry Tree Farm on the road to Asheridge (Marjorie) and were happily integrated into Cholesbury.

The exhibition of Grant's work at Goldsmiths Hall starts in April and continues for three months. We will restore the Elizabethan Chalice to regular use in Cholesbury church for about four months.

John Farmer

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CURVACEOUS COOK



Stovies

When I received a reminder for this recipe we were visiting relatives in the Aberdeen area with our little caravan. It was cold, grey and raining and we were very much looking forward to the comfort of the evening stovies made in the family way by a cousin. It is one of those recipes that nobody actually writes down, everybody does slightly differently and you can basically add more of what you like or have and reduce what you don't!

You do need a non non-stick pan, as the best bits are those that crisply just catch on the bottom of the pan.

Fry some onions in beef dripping until softening, then slice on some peeled, floury potatoes in layers: about the thickness of a pound coin is good. Sprinkle on a couple of tablespoons of water and a little salt and put on a low flame with a well-fitting lid.

Shake the pan every now and then and check after about 20 minutes. The potatoes should be just cooked.

Break them up with a fork, not mashing them, and throw in some chunks of cooked beef. Brisket is really good here, but any beef and even corned beef at a pinch will do.

Keep using the fork to mix the beef into the potato and onion mix over the heat, and ideally just catch the bottom to give a wonderful brown crunch. Once it is all piping hot, that's it!

In Stonehaven this is served either with oatmeal sprinkled over the top or with an oatcake, and often a nip of whisky on the side. It is great fodder for outdoor things like bonfire night, and we enjoyed them whilst watching 52 crazy Scots hurling large balls of burning tar soaked materials around their heads! Perfect.

Lulu Stephen: bellingdonm@hotmail.com

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Dear Diary

February 2018

- 2nd Local History Group – St Leonards Parish Hall – 8pm
- 19th WI – St Leonards Parish Hall – 8pm
- 26th Parish Council Meeting – Cholesbury Village Hall – 8pm
- 28th Tea Party – St Leonards Church Room – 3pm

March 2018

- 2nd Local History Group – St Leonards Parish Hall – 8pm
- 19th WI – St Leonards Parish Hall – 8pm
- 26th Parish Council Meeting – Cholesbury Village Hall – 8pm
- 28th Tea Party – St Leonards Church Room – 3pm

April 2018

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

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 April/May edition should be sent to Graham Lincoln or Anne Butterworth (Church Matters) by **10 March** latest. Please note that photos sent online must be at least 2,500 x 1,750 pixels in size.

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