

Hilltop News



August & September 2018

Good weather, good football, good mood...

I'm putting together this issue of Hilltop News basking – not only in the heat of a prolonged sunny spell – but also in the unexpected success of the England soccer team in the World Cup. How splendid that football has put back some national pride when the country has been so divided in recent times. Even my neighbours, rather than commenting on potholes, have been talking football. Let's hope the feelgood factor lasts...

The sun also shone on the annual **St Leonards Parish Hall Fete**. For the third year running we enjoyed fine weather which helped bring in scores of visitors and raise welcome funds for the Parish Hall playground. Also in blazing June, the **Village Picnic**, organized 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 August Bank Holiday Monday – see you there!...Ed



Strange visitors to the Fete!

In this issue:

- Tribute to John Garner
- Memories of a true local character
- Liz Green – Sheriff of The City
- Remembering World War 1

Plus our regular features...

Chris Brown traces our long-standing passion for plants

Our **Curvaceous Cook** serves up something quick and tasty for summer

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



Front cover: A May Bank Holiday party at the restored Full Moon

THE PARISH COUNCIL

For a change I'm going to start with allotments, as there are still, at the time of writing, three half plots available. The word has been put out on Grapevine, in addition to the many mentions made in this publication and if there are no takers from the parish it may be necessary to advertise with neighbouring councils – some of whom we know have waiting lists for their allotment sites - as it is a shame to have plots covered in plastic to keep out the weeds. So, if your green fingers are up for a new challenge, please get in touch! Rent is £12.50 a year per half plot.

Phone boxes - You may remember that there was a consultation over a year ago, proposing the removal of the four phone boxes in the parish, due to lack of use. The consultation went through unopposed (only one of the boxes had been used on only one occasion in recent years), and yet the boxes are all still here (if you can even see the one on Gilbert's Hill due to the greenery surrounding it!). Well, the boxes on Gilbert's Hill, Buckland Common and opposite the Rose and Crown in Hawridge, should all be gone by April 2019 as part of a national programme being undertaken by a contractor on behalf of BT. However, the box opposite the cricket pitch in Cholesbury is going to stay, as BT are aware of the lack of reliable mobile phone coverage in these parts. The box is in good condition and may provide a vital back-up for someone, even if only once in a while!

As the Parish Council completed another audit process and reviewed its reserves moving into another financial year, it was concluded that the reserves, carefully managed over a number of years,

were of an amount that would allow an extraordinary grant to be made to both Cholesbury Village Hall and St Leonards Parish Hall: both of which have pending projects requiring large expenditure. £3,000 was granted to each hall, to support CVH's replacement of their unreliable boiler, the failure of which has hampered more than one wine tasting event (sacre bleu!) and to SLPH to support replacement of the hall's chairs to something more comfortable! I'm sure that you'll agree that both halls provide a vital resource for the community and it was with pleasure that the PC was able to support them in this way.

In addition, the Parish Council is also supporting the Chiltern Conservation Boards 'Beacons of the Past' hillforts project, due to our very own Hillfort in Cholesbury. The project is now underway and the society is looking for volunteers to help with a variety of roles. Look on their website: <https://www.chilternsaonb.org/about-chilterns/historic-environment/hillforts/beacons-of-the-past.html> for information about the project and how you can help.

Another matter the Parish Council has been focusing on is HS2. While not directly affected by the project, there is concern that traffic flow may over time divert away from Chesham and the A413 through the Hilltop Villages, should the main routes become congested. Parishes directly affected by the project - The Lee, Great Missenden and Wendover - have for some time been requesting a baseline traffic survey in order to be able to demonstrate in future the effect that construction has had on the roads network but, despite promises to the contrary, this has not been forthcoming. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation, but, at the very least, has the benefit of its own baseline data from the MVAS equipment, which has been used now for several years, at least three times per year and over

two-week periods tracking the number of vehicles passing through our country lanes.

I hope you've all noticed just how lovely and clean our road and directional signs are of late? As a hazard of the job, I now can't drive anywhere without thinking how dirty some signs are (my family laugh at me!) but as part of our devolved services agreement with BCC, sign-cleaning is a new responsibility for the council and we recently commissioned Tool Shed, a social enterprise in Buckinghamshire, that gamely tried to follow the map to find all of the signs we wanted cleaning. I hope you'll agree, they did a great job.

In addition to this we've been busy facilitating improvement of access to footpaths, improving litter collection by arranging for a second litter bin to be added at the cricket pitch, eventually mowing the green at Buckland Common after the awful weather in April and dealing with the usual planning and enforcement matters.

And finally, the roads - I had a recent 'drive around' with our TFB representative and although there was the odd defect here and there, the main area of concern is still the stretch from Rays Hill through Hawridge and along the Vale. We have tentative dates of July for the start of works along here, so fingers crossed that by the time you read this, works have begun. In the meantime, due to budget restraints, only the potholes strictly meeting the intervention criteria will be repaired by the Amersham depot until work starts (under a different budget) to repair the whole stretch. Just think how good it will be when it's done!

Any queries regarding the Parish please get in touch. I can be contacted by phone on (01494) 758843, or by email at 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 loads of local information on our noticeboard, including surveys, details of meetings and updates on local services that will affect you!

Hayley Lewis, Parish Clerk

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HAWRIDGE AND CHOLESBURY C OF E SCHOOL

It looks as though the warm weather is going to continue until the end of term but, whilst there has been a relaxation in some of the uniform rules, little else has changed as the children approach the end of their school year.

The **Spring Fayre** in May was a great success despite being in direct competition with a royal wedding (which was televised in the hall) and the FA Cup final. £1300 was added to the PSA accounts. We sold out of strawberries and Pimms and the main raffle prize of dinner and an overnight stay at The Langham Hotel in Eastbourne was won by one of the teachers – well deserved!

Straight after the Spring Fayre was the **Chesham Carnival** and our float looked fantastic, down to the efforts of the parents and children. Our contribution of bottles to the tombola also means that we will be given a good share of the funds raised during the day.

Then it was **Sports Day** – though it is more appropriate to say that it was Sports week. A daily morning ‘wake and shake’ got the children and parents fully ready for their day and fresh fruit was served to all of the children when they had finished. Sports Day itself was also a great success with Key Stage 1 competing in the morning and Key Stage 2 in the afternoon. Children were also given the opportunity to experience different sports including fencing and cricket.

The work on the **Pond** is nearing completion and we have a pair of ducks who have already taken residence – we think some of the children look over in envy at the opportunity to have a dip in the water!

Exposure to technology continues to increase amongst our children and there is probably a whole article that could be written on the advantages and disadvantages of this (sorry Editor this is not an offer). I am not sure how my parents coped without the availability of search engines to find the answers to homework questions, but they did. Whatever your viewpoint on ‘screen time’ it is a fact of life that children turn to computers, laptops and phones from earlier ages.

PC Briggenshaw from the local police force gave an **E-Safety** talk earlier in the year for parents which was a great success. Comments from the first meeting included, “I thought I was quite safety conscious on the exposure my children have to the internet and keeping my children safe but by the end of our talk I realised how one false move could affect your children for the rest of their lives.” Following this first meeting he has kindly agreed to come back to the school to talk to parents who did not have the opportunity to attend the first session.

Year 6 children were invited to a workshop and special service in Aylesbury organised by the Diocesan Schools Advisory Team. Children from all over the County gathered together in their final year of primary school to think about love and the ways that we can show love using the CS Lewis book ‘The Four Loves’ as a foundation for the discussions. Feedback was that everyone enjoyed their day and our Year 6 children contributed strongly to the discussions.

Back in the classroom the children are continuing to learn throughout the curriculum. The school continues to place great emphasis on reading but we are always looking for adults to help offer one-to-one reading with the children –

especially in Key Stage 1. If there is anyone who feels they could give an hour of their time to help the teachers and teaching support staff, the school would be very grateful for you to contact them.

Between lessons the children have been rehearsing for a music concert to be held with the school choir and orchestra. When these rehearsals have been completed Key Stage 2 children will be on stage for the traditional end of year drama production ‘Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits’. This timeless tale has been given a twist by writer Craig Hawes to give an entertaining, mystical musical comedy – and neither performance will clash with the World Cup semi-final!

As the school year comes to an end, we are looking forward to welcoming a full class in to Windmills in September as we say farewell to our current Year 6 who go to a number of different schools, including about a third to local Grammars. As is usual at the end of the year there are also a couple of staff changes and all children have met their new teachers, but the Leadership Team is staying the same.

On behalf of all the staff and children we hope you have a good summer holiday.
James Morris



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THE COUNTY COUNCIL

By the time we go to print the road from The Vale to Rays Hill should be vastly improved with drainage works complete and a new tarmac surface. The Parish Council has worked hard with Transport for Bucks to make this happen and I prevailed at County Hall to extend the work as far as Rays Hill.



94% of children in Buckinghamshire go to schools which are Ofsted rated as good or outstanding, one of the highest proportions in the country. Nonetheless the budgets for Education and children’s social care are severely challenged.

The death of Lord Carrington at 99 years of age in early July was well reported in the national press. As a Buckinghamshire man he was Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Minister for Overseas Development. He also chaired meetings that ended the Rhodesian Independence dispute. Whilst he previously gained an MC during his military career, latterly he was active in the local community and will be sadly missed.

My broken arm is now better and I am out and about regularly in the Parish. Please let me know of any issues you wish me to take up with officers at County Hall.

Tricia Birchley
Pbirchley@buckscc.gov.uk, 01296 651823

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CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS W.I.

A bright yellow motorbike was parked outside St Leonards Parish Hall as we arrived for the June meeting – Captain Kamran Irani had pulled up in good time for his talk on the work of SERV, the Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers, otherwise known as the blood bikers. This is a charity which operates free of charge for the NHS providing invaluable transport of blood between hospitals and other healthcare facilities. And not only blood: the volunteer riders also carry milk to premature baby units, prescriptions, samples and paperwork. Captain Irani's group cover Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. Other groups operate throughout England and most of the deliveries are made during the night so the riders are seldom seen.

It was an inspiring presentation and members were most impressed with what they had heard.

After a break for tea and refreshments we learned that the recent Fete and Show at St Leonards had been successful with the Cake Stall and Teas making just short of £1000 and Carol read out a thank you letter from Natasha, who had been the main organiser.

In August we are having an informal garden meeting at the home of one of our members and on **17 September** Dr Brenda Harold is going to tell us "Everything a Woman Ought to Know (in 1911)". Come along to St Leonards Parish Hall to find out more and ring Carol Henry on 758435 for information about the August get-together.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



If the hot weather continues into August please be aware when leaving doors and windows open, so giving access for opportunist thieves, and let neighbours know if you are going away. National Neighbourhood Watch Week took place at the end of June. The organisation is now 54 years old and is based on the idea that getting together with neighbours to take action can help to cut local crime. Apart from burglary and theft from vehicles the police have to deal with exploitation, modern slavery and scams, crimes which can also cause significant harm to victims and communities. Be alert to suspicious activity and call 101, the police non-emergency number, to report anything which appears unusual. I am aware that it may take a while to get through but please persevere. Dial 999 for an immediate response in an emergency.

Shirley Blomfield (758314)

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HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY COMMONS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Village picnic

It was a lovely day and we had a good turn out, despite clashing with the World Cup soccer match between England and Panama, which we had no way of predicting when we set the date for the picnic. The England team was strongly supported in the clubhouse. My thanks to the Cricket Club for their warm welcome and the use of their facilities and to all who helped put up gazebos, moved furniture, mowed the parking area and of course to BURP who provided their music from 1- 4 pm for just a few beers and some other refreshments. As always, it was great to see the youngsters playing and the efforts that the CC put into encouraging them. They had had activities for 5-8 year olds very early in the morning, followed by Under 10 and Under 11 matches later.

2019 Calendar photos

Please send me any good images that you have of the Commons or the surrounding area by 14 September (lindsaygriffin@yahoo.co.uk). Photos taken on a mobile or other device are welcome but they are not usually high enough quality for the main months, so please remember to take your camera when you are out and about. Also, please remember that this year's

competition for the front cover is the best photo of the Full Moon, in celebration of the fact that Phil and Hannah have given the pub a welcome new lease of life. Prize: a meal for two at the pub, with a bottle of house wine. Ideally, possible contenders for the front cover and main months should be in landscape format.

Wesley Mitchell

We were very saddened by the death of Wesley on 1st July after his long battle from the results of his stroke. Wesley and Duncan spent hours on our Commons over many years cutting and collecting the grassland and dealing with terrain that is a challenge to anyone's equipment. They often spent a lot of time fixing their tractor as a result. Wesley is very much missed.

To cut or not to cut

At this time of year Christine and HCCPS are often asked why we haven't yet cut the grassland and the bracken on the Commons (or sometimes receive complaints when we do!) and this year has been no



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Summer fun at the village picnic

exception. Inevitably, there are many and varied reasons given as to why individuals think we should or should not cut and these are almost always seen from a human perspective.

At a time when flora and fauna are at risk from many man-made threats, our Commons provide a safe haven for a large variety of plants and animals and we try to manage the Commons in a way that is friendly to all of them, as well as to humans. Chemicals are rarely used and, wherever possible, nature is allowed to flourish in its own way. In general we delay cutting until after the wildflowers have set seed though, of course, some areas are cut beforehand for amenity use, eg for parking by the Village Hall. Each year we try to balance the interests of humans as well as the other living things on our Commons. Making the Commons look tidy isn't part of that balance. Although we have some parts, which are manicured, around the Cricket Ground, the Commons are not parkland and are much richer in their diversity because of that. Vive la difference!

As in previous years, our management sub-committee members have spent a great deal of time checking conditions on the Commons and have agreed to have some of the Commons cut earlier this year because the wet spring encouraged the grasses to grow more vigorously than usual. Also, because of the hot summer, most of the wildflowers have finished seeding earlier than usual.

Verges

Until recently the Council used to cut the verges and they are supposed to do so where there is a 40 mph limit. However, so far this year they have only cut the entrances to the main road from the lanes, to improve visibility. Our contractor, James Jolliffe, was asked to cut them since they are difficult for volunteers on our tractor.

Paths and rides

As always, the paths and rides have been cut by HCCPS volunteers and we must thank Isobel, Bill Waller, Nick Brown and Janet for all of the time that they have put into

doing this. This year, for the first time in ages, the courtesy ride parallel to Rays Hill has dried out sufficiently, after a burst pipe, for work to be done to re-open it. Thanks to Martin Hopping and Richard Bysouth, as well as the others already mentioned, for helping to clear it. A footpath, which runs alongside this ride, has also been cleared by Janet, using her wheeled strimmer. Janet says that this equipment is easy to use and seems to be fairly indestructible, so we are very grateful to Chris Brown who, on our behalf, has applied for a Bucks County Council grant to purchase another strimmer for other volunteers to use. Our thanks also to Martin Barber who continues to work on our elderly tractor and flail.

Fly tipping

The copious amounts of household waste, which were dumped on the Common recently, were removed from the verge by a Bucks County Council pick up. However, it had first to be moved from the Common

and I am really grateful to Pam and Tom Bowman, David Marsden and Janet Hopkinson who helped me with this very unpleasant job. It included two televisions, a bed base, a dismantled cupboard, bags of dirty nappies, numerous kids' toys, perfectly useable clothing, as well as garden waste, etc.

Les, the Community Police Officer, who happened to be passing, went through the rubbish for evidence. She has recently prosecuted a fly tipping case successfully. Her advice is that, if you are paying someone to remove waste from your premises, make sure it is done responsibly. Take the name of the person involved and the vehicle number of anyone you employ to do it. Otherwise it could be a very costly business. If it is your rubbish, you are responsible, even if someone else dumped it and Bucks CC and the Police are very keen to prosecute offenders.

Enjoy the Commons!

Lindsay Griffin

CHOLESBURY CUM ST LEONARDS HORT SOC

What do you remember about the summer of 1976? It seems likely that we are heading for similar this year and, as I write, it is now some weeks since we last had significant rain.

The water companies are already advising against use of hoses and sprinklers although my understanding is that there are sufficient supplies following the wet winter and spring. If you do continue to use hoses and sprinklers (obviously not if there is a ban) focus on specific plants and do not water randomly. The lawn will recover, large shrubs and trees planted some time ago should have roots down into the water. Many plants are native to drier areas. Now is not the time to start planting them though as they do need to establish before a drought. Annuals will need watering as will vegetables.

The RHS advice on using grey water is...

Plants can be watered with shower, bath, kitchen and washing machine water (from rinse cycles), collectively referred to as 'grey' water. It varies in quality and may contain contaminants such as soap and detergent. Fortunately, soil and potting composts are effective at filtering them out, and the residues can sometimes act as a mild fertiliser.

To minimise bacterial growth, grey water should be saved for only 24 hours, unless filtered through a reed bed or professionally designed system. It is best applied by watering can - grease and fibres can clog irrigation systems.

There should be no problem with small-scale, short-term use of grey water to tide plants over in summer drought. An exception is on edible crops, due to the risk of contamination from pathogens in the water.

And yes, I do remember the end of the

summer of 1976 – it was the year I went to university and I signed up for a coach trip to see the village under Ladybower Reservoir. The weather broke that week and we could see nothing through the driving rain and steamed up coach windows!

Garden opening (Liz Firth reports) - In June Members of the Hort Soc were invited to visit Sarah and Stephen Tricks' garden. It was a glorious sunny evening and everyone enjoyed strolling around this constantly evolving garden. Sarah and Stephen now have a flock of rare breed Portland sheep and Sarah explained how she was going to use the fleece - watch next year's Show for results maybe! Also, there was a new innovative bee hive under the trees. The evening raised £260 for their chosen charity. This was the Sabre Educational Trust working in rural Ghana helping young disabled children, which the Tricks family have been involved with for some years.

Continued ►

David Hawkes

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Coach trip (Diana Garner reports) - On the morning of the coach trip at the end of June there was a surprising layer of cloud over the villages – did we need coats after all – where were they? The full coach had commenced its journey by 8.45am and the driver took us on an interesting, rural route to our first destination, Kelmarsh Hall and gardens. The sun burst through the clouds on arrival and did not leave us for the rest of the day. The gardens at Kelmarsh were suffering a little from the drought but there was still plenty to see. They have the largest walled garden I have ever seen and it was lovely to see the traditional pinks and cosmos being grown for cutting flowers. There were ample seats spread around the estate where we could sit to enjoy the views, the sun or shade, and our picnics. The house was unexpectedly open as well, and those who took up the opportunity said it was really interesting, particularly the kitchen/butler areas.

Then we moved on to Cottesbrooke Hall and Gardens. Those who had booked

were given timed entrances to the house where we had a guided tour. The owners had a famous collection of porcelain and equestrian paintings. The garden was far more formal than the morning one: a 300-year-old Cedar of Lebanon stood majestically on the lawn – the most splendid tree I have ever seen - beautiful clipped copper beech hedges; a black pool which was only about 6 inches deep; very tasteful borders with alliums, thalictums, hostas, etc. If you followed the signs to the Wild Garden, after about half a mile you went through a gate into a dell and found a beautiful secret garden surrounding a lake with stepping stones, acers, gunneras and a wide range of damp-loving plants. Diana and Brian Mills organised the coach trip on behalf of the Society and we send them many thanks and congratulations on an excellent choice of gardens and organised trip.

Sarah Tricks



CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Entry forms must be completed and delivered to the Show Secretary Roseann Vince, 11 Sandpit Hill Cottages, Cholesbury HP23 6NF (01494 758764) with fees by Wednesday 29 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 10.15am.

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.



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Harri Doyle in prize-winning form with the bat

HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CRICKET CLUB

Seniors

Now that the season has passed its halfway point, the position of the League team has become clear, settling down in mid-table of the Mid Bucks League Second Division. This could have



been somewhat better, had it not been necessary to concede a match against Ley Hill 2nds, as they are the weakest team in the league. So availability continues to fluctuate. Generally the numbers are comfortably sufficient, but there are occasions when we struggle.

An innovation this year has been the establishment of a WhatsApp Group, for members to show their availability early. It has worked well, at times almost too well, as it has become a social media chatline,

with all sorts of banter. If that builds togetherness and team spirit, then it has been a great success! It does seem to have helped with improving availability.

The good state of the wicket and a lightning-fast outfield, brought about by the hot, dry weather, has at times led to high scores in the friendly matches. The highest score, 305 for 5, was posted by Kensington, who usually arrive from London with a strong side. That is some going in 40 overs. In reply, Hawridge mustered 229, some way short. Harri Doyle top scored with a fine 70, which earned him a gift from the visitors, as Hawridge & Cholesbury Man of the Match - a Kensington tradition.

Colts

Colts cricket is definitely on the up. As we reach the end of the League season, the Under 9s, U10s and U11s have had some excellent results. This success coincides with a very healthy and enthusiastic contribution from parents, who are becoming increasingly engaged in coaching, managing and supporting. League positions will be reported on next time. Highlight of the season for the U9 team was in winning the



Tournament winning H&CCC Under 9s

Haddenham Junior Tournament with 4 wins out of 4. Well done guys!

And of course, All Stars Cricket, for those aged between 5 and 8, has been a great success. Well done Alexis Shead for volunteering to make it happen. Although the official ECB course is now finished, Alexis has agreed to continue to run sessions on Saturday mornings through the summer holidays. We can still accommodate a few more children, so contact Alexis (alfshead@yahoo.com) if you would like to participate. It is a great way to start playing cricket.

Duathlon

For many years now, the Hawridge International Duathlon is held in early June around Cholesbury Common. Gradually, members of the club have plucked up the courage to participate. Sam Richardson was one of the first to give it a try, then last year Chairman Steve Drane was among the club participants. Now this year four colts parents, Ian and Vicky Pudney, Sally Clement and Garry Brown, competed.

Village Picnic

For the third year running, the Village Picnic took place in hot conditions, ideal for the occasion. With colts' cricket matches before and during the picnic, BURP playing their lively ukuleles, burgers on demand and World Cup football in the bar, it was again a great family occasion.

Upcoming events

8 September: 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



Duathlon parents

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LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The Local History Group's popularity continues to rise and achieved a record for

membership of over 90 last season. We also welcomed many visitors to meetings over the 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 in part 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 commemorate the end of the Great War in 1918 with two talks. The first of these on **Friday 5 October** is **Artists of the Great War – Creativity through conflict**, which will include the likes of Paul and John Nash, Christopher Nevinson, Wyndham Lewis, Stanley Spencer, and also Mark Gertler, who was resident at the Windmill for a long period during the War. We welcome back **Ann Danks**, who gave us an excellent talk recently on another famous

artist of the time, Stanley Spencer.

The second talk, coinciding with the commemoration of the end of World War I, is on **Friday 2 November** and is aptly entitled **The Armistice 1918 – Local Perspectives**.

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

Other talks to look forward to during the season include **Royal Mistresses**, **'The Great Stink!'** and **Great British Poster Artists**.

For members and regulars we look forward to seeing you once again. And if you are new to the area, have just not got around to visiting before, or for a while, why not come to one of our meetings? **Visitors just £4 at the door.**

Membership for the whole year is great value - just £10 for adults and free for those 16 years and under. This includes 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

BATTLE'S OVER



A NATION'S TRIBUTE

11TH NOVEMBER 2018

100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

The Hilltop Villages are proud to be hosting two events to commemorate, celebrate, reflect and remember on Sunday 11th November, marking the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War.

In the morning there will be a Church Service of remembrance with a strong emphasis on those from our villages who fought, some of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice. A vintage vehicle procession of transport of the era will follow (weather permitting), plus a WW1 display by the Local History Group.

At 7pm we join the Nation's 'Beacons of Light' tribute with a bonfire on Cholesbury Common followed at 7.05pm by our village churches 'Ringing out for Peace'. The Full Moon will play host to an evening marking this important commemorative national event to which all are welcome.

More details will follow in the next HTN. If you would like to offer your help, please email HilltopsRemember@gmx.com or telephone 01494 757 059



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GOOD NEIGHBOURS GROUP

Pub Lunch Club

Lunches, comprising a main course, dessert, tea or coffee take place at The Full Moon on the second Wednesday in the month, and cost only £14. Bookings are made a week in advance by calling the number below.

Currently up to 20 meet each month to enjoy excellent food and a chance of a chat in the convivial surroundings. This is an opportunity 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 and a chat over a meal. 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 there and back this can be arranged.

Gentle Exercise for Older Adults

The 'Gentle Exercise for Older Adults' classes have become increasingly popular. Classes run each **Tuesday from 10.00am until 11.00am**. They take place at **Cholesbury Village Hall** and both ladies and gentlemen are 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 email: elayne.hughes@gll.org**

Keeping your home safe

At a recent Community Safety meeting I attended, the local police asked for the following information about keeping your home safe whilst you are out to be passed on to residents. It's important to reiterate that thankfully we live in a very low crime area by all national and local

statistics. However, if you suffer a burglary these figures are of little consequence. In most cases thieves do not set out to burgle a specific house; rather they cruise along roads looking for a property that is easier to break into without being seen or disturbed.

The following advice was provided by the police:

Whenever you go out, it is important to leave your home secure. Getting into an 'exit routine' can help ensure that you don't forget obvious, but important things, like not leaving your valuables near windows, or no lights on if it will be dark before you get home. Here's our quick reminder on what to do just before you go out...

- Close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you're only going out for a few minutes
- Double-lock any door
- Make sure that any valuables are out of sight

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- Keep handbags away from the letterbox or cat flap and hide all keys including car keys, as a thief could hook keys or valuables through even a small opening
- Never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways
- In the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
- If you're out all day, then it's advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night
- Set your burglar alarm
- Make sure the side gate is locked
- Lock your shed or garage
- Lock your bike inside a secure shed or garage, to a robust fitting bolted to the ground or wall, like a ground anchor

Going away?

Here are five tips to help you keep your home and belongings safe while you're away:

1. If you're off on holiday and wish to post anything on social media, make sure your posts aren't public and that they're only seen by your friends
2. Leave lights and a radio on a timer to make the property appear occupied
3. Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property or join a Neighbourhood or resident Watch Scheme
4. Consider asking your neighbours to close curtains after dark and to park on your drive
5. Remember to cancel newspaper and milk deliveries

Chris Brown: 758890 or
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Sun shines again on showpiece event

The St Leonards Village Fete was blessed with glorious sunshine for the third year running on 2 June and it brought the crowds once again into the Parish Hall and field.

Hundreds came and raised valuable funds towards the continuing refurbishment of the Parish Hall playground.

Many have commented on the lovely atmosphere and what a great time they had. Matt Baker generously gave his time to open the event and stayed to mingle with the visitors.

The Woodside Morrismen were back to full fitness this year and treated us to two fine displays. The Jolly Jazzers provided ongoing entertainment throughout the afternoon and generously donated their fee to The Hospice of St Francis.

The horse show was well attended and yet again the dog show ran like a well-oiled machine thanks to Jonathan's 22-year commitment. We do however know that he'll be delighted to share his knowledge and experience with anyone in the community who may want to rise to the dog show co-ordination challenge next year.

The Tug-of-war was lively - a variety of age groups took part, with free beer or sweets for the winning teams. A sterling effort was made by the raffle ticket selling team: the top prize being £500 of holiday vouchers won by Ann and John Horn and, contrary to rumours, it wasn't a fix!

Our wonderful WI ladies produced another excellent selection of cakes, jams and teas in the hall. The bar sold out of beer yet again and there was a convivial

atmosphere enjoyed by all seated in the sunshine in the 'beer garden'.

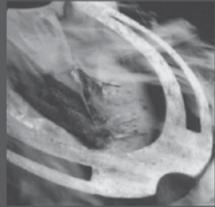
There was plenty to keep children entertained whilst their parents enjoyed refreshments, including petting zoo, bouncy castle and Punch and Judy.

Lots of fun activities took place including splat-the-rat, coconut shy, welly-wanging (with Champagne prize for the best wanger) and Claire Cox was yet again soaked in the stocks. Many traditional stalls were busy, such as bric-a-brac, toy, tombola, plants as well as local produce and other local businesses.

Whilst I took on the co-ordination of the fete for the first time, it only was possible due to the wonderful community spirit from an army of hardworking volunteers, many of whom have been involved in the fete for many years and their experience and assistance was invaluable.

Natasha Kate

James Elliott Dip WCF
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HAWRIDGE AND CHOLESBURY CHURCHES'

FETE

**BANK HOLIDAY
MONDAY**

1.30pm – 4.30pm

CHOLESBURY COMMON



CHURCHES FETE

The Annual Hawridge & Cholesbury Churches Fete will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 27 August. The venue is Cholesbury Common by the Village Hall between 1.30pm and 4.30pm. Everyone is very welcome with free entry – as many of you know the fete is suitable for all ages with entertainment for children and adults alike, as well as the ever popular 'dog temptation alley', which is fun to watch even if you don't have a dog taking part!

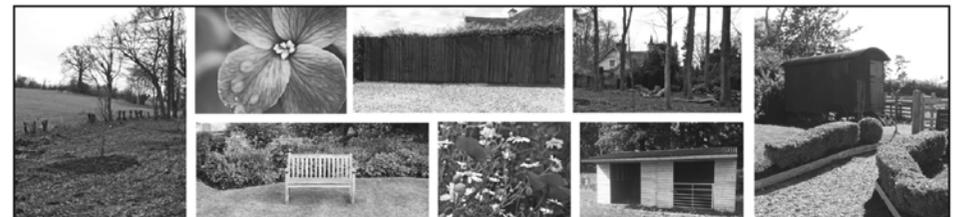
Attractions this year include:

- 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 including a garden theme and a toy theme.

- Plant and produce
- Bric a brac
- The legendary Cream Teas with a fabulous selection of home-baked cakes.
- Hook a Duck
- Ellesborough Silver Band
- Bottle tombola
- Bouncy Castle

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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Controlling emotions

I remember watching a DVD of a friend of mine receiving an MBE from Princess Anne at Buckingham Palace. It was a pleasure to watch, not least because of the obvious excitement and, I expect, not a little nervousness on my friend's face as she went to receive her honour. That was reflected in the faces of all the other people doing the same thing as well.

Isn't it strange how that defining culture of the "stiff upper lip" has disappeared from English society in less than a generation? It lingers on, of course, as do waistcoats (given a recent boost by the England manager), bow ties and handlebar moustaches; but like them it has become a bit outré, even eccentric. A few years ago, a line up at Buck House would have been a very different looking affair.

Do we miss that? It was certainly a polite way to be, if a little uncaring. It embodied a spirit of stoicism that went out of fashion, and became unnecessary—but who knows, might be coming back in these days?

Christ seemed quite free with his emotions. In the Middle Ages they wondered whether Jesus laughed. We know he wept, he got angry, he got tired, and more than anything else we know that he loved. And it is impossible to be in love without showing it. I expect Jesus laughed quite a lot—he certainly had a nice line in wry humour, which comes through in the gospels, even in translation.

A rich emotional life is one of the defining characteristics of humanity, and therefore Jesus must have it in all its fullness. To laugh and cry; to shout and scream and to bear your grief in silence are all part of the human condition; which

makes them, through Christ, part of the divine condition too.

The silence of the cross was an earth-shattering sound. The emptiness of the tomb was the fullest, ripest most pregnant moment in human history. As we enjoy this long, hot summer we leave behind, for a few months, that re-telling of the life of Christ that begins at Advent and ends at Pentecost. We are living our own lives in all their potential. We look forward to the fulfilment of all our hopes in Christ.

Jesus wasn't honoured, himself, by society. Sure, the people praised him, but then they forgot him. He certainly never received an honour. In fact, the honour is ours—that God came and pinned our badge to his chest; took on our mantle; lived our lives in all their fullness, all their emptiness. We live our lives conscious of that great honour, conscious of that great value put on us by God. We laugh and cry, and whether we show it or not, God shares it with us. An honour indeed.

Deiniol Heywood, Area Dean

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SERVICES AND CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE FOUR PARISHES: AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2018

DATE	DAY	St John the Baptist THE LEE		St Leonard's ST LEONARDS		St Laurence CHOLESBURY		St Mary's HAWRIDGE	
5 Aug	Trinity 10	8.00 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion All Age Worship	11.00 am	Parish Communion	9.30 am	BCP Holy Communion	9.30 am	Family Service
12 Aug	Trinity 11	10.00 am	Parish Communion	10.00 am Shared Morning Worship at Cholesbury					
19 Aug	Trinity 12	10.00 am	Matins	10.00 am Shared Parish Communion at St Leonards					
26 Aug	Trinity 13	10.00 am	Parish Communion	11.00 am Shared CW Parish Communion at Hawridge					
2 Sept	Trinity 14	8.00 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion All Age Worship at LCM	11.00 am	Parish Communion With Sunday School	9.30 am	BCP Holy Communion	9.30 am	Family Service
9 Sept	Trinity 15	10.00 am	Parish Communion	10.00 am Shared Morning Worship at Cholesbury					
16 Sept	Trinity 16	10.00 am	Matins	6.00 pm	Harvest Festival	10.00 am Shared Parish Communion at Hawridge			
23 Sept	Trinity 17	10.00 am	Parish Communion	9.00 am Breakfast Service at St Leonards [with Cholesbury]				11.00 am	CW Parish Communion
30 Sept	Trinity 18	10.00 am Fifth Sunday Joint Parish Communion at Cholesbury Speaker from The Church Army							
<p>Please note: Rev David Burgess is on sick leave for 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>PCC Secretary St Leonards Giles Pemberton 01494 758445 giles.pemberton@btinternet.com</p>	

CHURCH MATTERS

FROM THE REGISTERS

ST LEONARDS

Holy Baptism

3 June 2018 Emily May Evans & Ethan James Evans

6 June 2018 Alfie Jack Stirling

ST LEONARDS

Holy Matrimony

23 June 2018 Fiona Caroline Woollatt and Matthew George Reynolds

HAWRIDGE

It is with huge sadness that I report the death of Wesley Mitchell

on 1st July who many of you may know had been hospitalised since March 2017 when he suffered a catastrophic brain trauma. He had shown great bravery and stoicism during this time and had never lost his sense of humour. Wesley was woven into the very tapestry of Hawridge life and we are all greatly saddened by his passing. Our thoughts and prayers go to his mother, Rosemary, sister Morny and brother Duncan and all their family who were absolutely steadfast in their care of Wesley during the last fifteen months.

We were delighted to welcome Michael Eggleton to St. Mary's for our 'Short and Sharp' service on 3 June when he spoke with great passion about the African charity with which he is involved. He was about to travel out to meet the school children once again laden with uniforms, books and donations to ensure that the children all got the opportunity and the necessary funding to be educated. Michael described a hugely difficult way of life for these



children and we hope that he will return to tell us about his recent visit and give individuals here the opportunity to support this charity financially.

We drew the winning ticket for the 'Win 12 months' supply of cake' after the Cholesbury Cream Teas on Sunday 20 May and are delighted to report that Stewart Pearce was the winner! Stewart and Rosie had been a great help to us on the day of our Cream Teas so this felt like a really fitting win. The total amount raised from ticket sales was £312, which has been shared between Cholesbury and Hawridge.

The Summer Concert was held on 29 June when once again Iain Ledingham and two singers from the Royal Academy, a solo trumpeter plus a couple of 'home grown' talents, came to entertain the Hilltops. It was a shame that this event was not better supported but those who turned up enjoyed an evening of really high calibre entertainment followed by a very good buffet. Thank you to everyone involved in organising the evening.

The repair work for the Church continues to gather momentum and we have had builders tender to do the work. Hopefully we will soon see our wish list of repairs become a reality.

The Fete of course is the next big

fundraiser on the horizon on **Monday 27 August** and as usual we will be asking for your donations of books, bottles, cakes, bric-a-brac but most importantly your support on the day. If you can man a stall for the afternoon we would love to hear from you although one of the most important jobs is setting up and pulling down on the day, plus the moving of tables from storage to site. Please think how you can help as this really is a day when we all need to pull together to make it a great success. The Grapevine will keep you informed of when and where to donate goods but if you need to keep in touch by phone please ring 01494 757059.

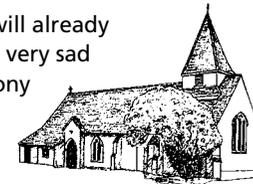
Our annual quiz will take place on **Saturday 22 September** so please put the date in your diary and again the Grapevine will keep you posted or phone the number as above.

ST LEONARDS

Many of you will already know of the very sad news that Tony

Eccleston's wife, Anne and Alan Davis' wife Janet have both died in the past few weeks. Tony, who has been ill himself, had withdrawn from his position as David's Curate to care for Anne. Janet died totally unexpectedly from a massive stroke. Alan has very kindly been taking services at St Leonards since David became ill. Our thoughts and prayers are with both families at this time.

The Wedding of **Fiona Woollatt and Matthew Reynolds** on 23 June was the first of our summer celebrations. It was a perfect summer's day as family and friends arrived to celebrate this very special occasion. Fiona looked beautiful - her dark hair contrasting with a lovely gown of lace and a long delicate lace train. Her three Bridesmaids were dressed in long deep pink



Fiona and Matthew Reynolds

dresses with attractive folds from the back necklines. St Leonards church was decorated in a countryside theme including wild flowers and roses which suited it so well. The pew ends had small sheaves of corn and lavender, the latter's faint fresh aroma filling the church as the guests entered. Fiona and Matthew left for the Reception at Wood Farm on an enormous tractor driven by Matthew, with an extra pair of steps to help Fiona climb on board in her dress - a departure to remember!

On 30 June on a gloriously sunny day the marriage of **Georgia Joseph and Thomas Haller** took place at the church of St John the Baptist at The Lee. Georgia was radiant in a beautiful Alice Temperley lace dress and fine silk train and she carried a wonderful bouquet of roses and peonies - she didn't stop smiling all day! The Church looked equally beautiful with white and green



Georgia and Thomas Haller

flowers with a hint of pale blue and guests were delighted with the beautiful rural surroundings. The Rev Ian Ogilvy conducted a wonderful and very personal service and a hearty round of applause and cheering followed 'you may kiss the bride!' The reception followed at the family home in St Leonards where the Bride's mother had worked endlessly to ensure the garden was at its best – it certainly was!

Lizzie and Mark Evans brought Emily and Ethan to be Baptised on Sunday 3 June. Both children were remarkably well behaved – full of smiles and happiness. Rev Janet Ridgway, whose church was in Aldbury, came out of retirement to take the service. What a joy! She was like everyone's favourite Granny and she took her duties extremely seriously, adding at various points her own comments which made the occasion very special. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch afterwards at Chartridge.

Marrisa and Billing Stirling came to St Leonards for Alfie's Christening on Wednesday 6 June. Alfie's two brothers, Billy and Tommy, were keeping a close eye on their young brother and all three

children looked cool and smart in matching shorts and white linen shirts. There was a lovely congregation of family and friends to see Alfie being accepted into the church and so keen was he that he tried to Christen himself at the end of the service! It was decided that once was enough.

We do appreciate the commitment of Revd. Ian Ogilvie who, in David's absence, will have conducted two of our Baptisms and four of our weddings by the end of the summer. Ian, we are most grateful!



Emily and Ethan Evans Baptism



Alfie Stirling Christening



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Harvest Festival and Supper – Sallie Bright sallie@jfinance.co.uk or 758907 is organising the supper on **Sunday 16 September** and would love to hear from you if you could help in any way, from putting up the tables in St Leonards Parish Hall on Sunday morning or doing a few simple jugs of flowers; to cooking, serving and finally helping clear up at the end. It's always a really fun evening but does rely on everyone doing their bit! Please also let her know if you would like to attend. Produce for the auction is always most welcome – either delivered to the church beforehand or taken directly to the village hall.

Tea Parties – We were somewhat depleted at the last Tea Party as the majority of guests and helpers were on a Hort Soc outing so we much look forward to seeing you all again on **Wednesday 22 August** and then on **Wednesday 26 September**. Do join us and see if you can bring someone who hasn't been before - we would love to see you.

Breakfast has been well attended and we have covered a number of interesting subjects in a simple and understandable way. Reaching out to the children doesn't prevent the adults from leaving with a few new thoughts – fortified by hot strong coffee and bacon butties! We meet at 9am, go into Church for half an hour and you can be home just after 10! We don't meet in August so our next service is on **23 September**.



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CHOLESBURY

Our grateful thanks to visiting ministers, Alan Davis and David Holloway, who celebrated our Communion services while Peggy Sear led the Morning Praise.



The date of our **Cream Teas** was later this year and Joan Barnard and Paddy Thomas sold over £524 of Teas! Bric-a-Brac with Sue Fletcher and Roseanne Vince raised £178 while other stalls lifted our net income to £899. The Buckingham Palace coin stayed locally and went to a winner in St Leonards. Thank you so much to all who helped.

The **Pets' service** welcomed more people than last year but there were fewer animals and all were dogs. One dog was late as he had run off but all were well behaved during the service. The weather was glorious and pews were taken outside. In David's absence his guitar was not available but Elizabeth Tomlin brought her key board to help the singing and Peggy's theme was the joy given by devoted pets. It was good to see six-year-old Matthew Harrison carry out Sidesman duties.

Saturday 11 August is the date of the **marriage** of Fraser Atkins and Annabelle Dorme who are from Chesham but whose grandparents are from The Lee. They chose Cholesbury as a small venue and the number of guests will create an intimate atmosphere enhanced by the sound of our organ. We look forward to writing about it in the next edition of Hilltop News.

The **Fete** is on **Monday 27 August** and many details are in place although a transport problem has arisen which requires new thinking. Helpers and humpers will be needed on the day so do please volunteer! Everyone is invited to enjoy the Fete with the Ellesborough Band, a host of stalls, ice cream, barbecue, Pimms and teas with

homemade cakes.

Looking further ahead, Cholesbury will host the **Four Parish Service on 30 September** at 10am. Our guest speaker will be from the **Church Army** and he will tell us of their evangelism and Christian social work.

Message from Rev David Burgess...

This is just an update on my news and situation. I'm feeling that I'm really beginning to surface and get back more into normal life. There's been a lot of progress in the last two months in particular.

Rumours of my being spotted in Chesham, Amersham and Great Missenden are true! You appreciate the everyday things of life – conversation, healthy eyesight, coffee, sharing a meal, driving – when they've been taken away from you for a while, and all the more so when there's an initial risk that recovering some of those things might not have been possible in the long term. The amazing weather we're enjoying has helped too.

Medically, there's still work to be done. The whole thing has been a very complex and difficult process, and as you can imagine it's taken its toll emotionally as well as physically, but I feel that I've come out of the worst of it, and that everything's heading in the right direction.

As always, Penny and I are enormously grateful for the prayers and practical support that we've received from the churches and the wider community. ...David

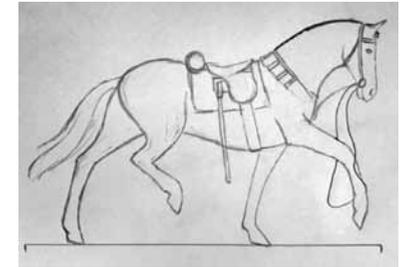
THE HILLTOPS REMEMBER WORLD WAR 1

It is greatly hoped that villagers in the Hilltops will embrace the nationwide 'There but not There' campaign as a poignant tribute to all those who lost their lives in World War 1. The installations vividly illustrate the sacrifice of one generation to its successors and, with the financial support of villagers, we can collectively ensure that this sacrifice is never forgotten.

For more information visit www.therebutnotthere.org.uk

Perspex silhouettes

The solid transparent perspex silhouettes of seated military figures will each represent a name on the village Churches' memorials, putting them back in the communities they left behind, seated in the pews of the Church where their name appears. There are also engraved perspex name blocks available to accompany each silhouette, bringing the names off the memorial plaques and back into our villages.



War Horse

In addition, we have been offered the unique opportunity for villagers to fund (materials and labour costs only) a War Horse installation by Charles Elliott to stand in the village as a permanent reminder of WW1. Described as the "backbone of WW1" a total of 8 million horses, donkeys and mules died. Britain lost over 484,000 horses - one horse for every two men. Today their role continues as working with horses has been found to be an effective therapy for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Tommy

The 6ft aluminium hollow outline sculpture 'Tommy' is the 'There but not There' logo and can already be seen around the country, including the Tower of London, and would make a wonderful installation in the Hilltops to remember permanently the Fallen.



If every household who receives a copy of the Hilltop News pledges to donate just £20 (£5 for every year of the war) the Hilltop Villages can fund the requisite number of silhouettes, name blocks, a 'Tommy' and a unique and truly distinctive horse installation as a permanent reminder of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and security of our country.

If you would like to pledge an amount towards these installations please make your pledge before 31 August. You will not need to pay any money into the Hilltops WW1 account until we know how much money is pledged and what can realistically be funded.

To pledge your amount, please send an email to HilltopsRemember@gmx.com with the message **"I, (full name) pledge an amount of £(xyz) towards the WW1 Fund"** or telephone 01494 757059

"No longer a name on a wall"

*Charities who will benefit from our purchase of silhouettes:
The Royal Foundation; Walking with the Wounded; Combat Stress; Help for Heroes;
Project Equinox - Housing Veterans; Commonwealth War Graves Foundation*

Late summer pub news



We can begin to celebrate the reviving pub scene in the Hilltop villages. Two have already established themselves on a welcome and successful path whilst another is storming quickly into a spectacular revival under new and inspired management. A fourth one is languishing in the quagmire of our under-resourced planning process, whilst a fifth and sixth are dormant.

Under the new management of Hannah and Philip Matthews, the **Full Moon** has been extensively refurbished with food and drink preparation and delivery systems upgraded and enhanced. Further redecoration, addition of a marquee in the paddock for private and special events in the summer and early autumn and refurbishment of the inside 'events' room for private events are all planned for completion in the immediate future.

A very professional web site has been established at www.fullmoonpub.info. It features upcoming events, weekly menu specials and some attractive graphics including a zooming out aerial video shot taken from a drone. The Facebook page is kept current at [thefullmoonatHawridge](https://www.facebook.com/thefullmoonatHawridge). Finally, an Instagram account is [the_full_moon_hawridge](https://www.instagram.com/the_full_moon_hawridge).

Monday night dinner is especially aimed at families from 4.00 to 7.30pm. Sunday roast is special and should be booked by calling in or phoning 01494 758959. Tuesday is Fish n Fizz with fish, chips and a



bottle of fizz for two at £25 all in. Coffee and cakes are available every weekday morning and cream teas are served every day. On August Bank Holiday Monday (27th) it will be Paella Time from 12-4pm with Sangrias and a duo of Spanish guitarists. Well respected local landlady, Sandra (Taylor) Dorsett now serves as front of house during busy periods.

There will be an Elvis night with Alvin Pintwhistle in the paddock marquee with sharing platters for dinner included in the ticket price on Thursday 16 August. With a date to be confirmed in September there will be a Barn Dance in the paddock marquee with a caller who is well respected for being a good mixer and instructor. This is very much an event that welcomes the uninitiated as well as experienced barn dancers.

In case you have not noticed, an American Car Club meets at the Full Moon on alternate Wednesdays during the summer. Anyone who comes along is welcome to meet the owners who display their unique rides in front of the pub.

The **Black Horse** barn was heaving with fans during the World Cup this summer. It is already booked for private events through September. Their ever-popular quiz nights continue every Tuesday except the first one of each month. On the second Wednesday

of the month, the Vegan Dining Evening is popular and needs to be booked well in advance if you want to be assured of getting in. On the last Friday morning in the month between 10 and 12am, there is a social Coffee Morning with homemade cake and a good chat. Upcoming events are easy to follow on www.theblackhorsechesham.co.uk.

In September, there will be a beer festival in conjunction with CAMRA's Caske Ale Week. To top up the fund raising for a defibrillator to be positioned at the Black Horse Inn, there will be a wine tasting night in September.

At the **Old Swan**, Jane and her team will see out the summer with their popular summer menu and ranges of beers and ciders. The Old Swan will be open on the August Bank Holiday Monday. Come September, there will be a number of seasonal and other changes. The first autumn menu will be available from Friday 14 September.

Given the wide interest in the increasing numbers of new hand-crafted gins, the Old Swan is stocking up on a number of these new gins, unusual tonics and cocktail ingredients in order to offer customers a 'gin menu'. This will present a range of gins, suggest good matches with various types of tonic, and introduce some exotic new gin-based cocktails. Looking even further ahead, Aarron will have the Christmas menu ready for perusal

and possible booking from Tuesday 4 September. You can catch up with these changes on facebook: [theoldswanbucks](https://www.facebook.com/theoldswanbucks).

The planning application to extend the trading area of the **White Lion** should have been approved (or otherwise) by 5 July. Although the planners have now been pressed to announce their decision by 31 July, there has been no confirmation that will happen when this was written. Chiltern District Council planning is more complicated than nearly every other area because their region has the added complication of Green Belt, Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Areas and intense pressure for property development in this desirable part of the country.

Despite the fact that the pub had been poorly managed after 2008 and closed since Christmas 2013, there continues to be strong support for the present owner's plans to extend, refurbish and reopen as a public house. There were 31 letters of support for the latest application sent to the planners from members of the public as well as our Parish Council, the Chiltern Society and the Chiltern Conservation Board.

As of early July, nothing has been heard of progress toward breathing life into the derelict **Rose and Crown** site.

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A very peculiar English passion for plants and gardens

Today the shelves of any decent bookshop and the website of any online retailer of printed works contain a vast array of books about plants ranging from glossy, colourful coffee table editions to almost indecipherable floras, or to be more correct florae, such as the pinnacle of this genre known by botany students as CTW or Clapham Tutin and Warburg.

I doubt there are many reading this article who cannot put their hands on at least one volume that enables them to identify wildflowers or alternatively a gardening book to select the right variety of shrub or plant for our chalky/ flinty / clayey soils. Before the end of the Second World War there remained limited choice, but the government campaign, 'Dig For Victory', brought about a revolution in how we used our back gardens. Stimulated by the quality newspapers, new gardening magazines and instructive television programmes on gardening by, for example, Percy Thrower, encouraged the diversification of how we used our gardens. Even in our part of this 'green and pleasant land', Buckland Common, Claire Loewenfeld, who had escaped from Nazi Germany, brought to the UK hitherto unknown knowledge of the dietary benefits of fruits, herbs and nuts.

Books about the classification and use of plants date back to Ancient Greece. The 2nd century AD Greek physician and philosopher Galen founded 'The Doctrine of Signatures' a tradition based on the theory that herbs resembling various parts of the body can be prepared and used by herbalists and physicians to treat ailments relating to those organs or body parts. A crucial part of this approach was the physic gardens that had developed in Universities from those herb gardens found in medieval monastery gardens. In continental Europe this philosophy survived until the 16th

century. Up until the middle of the 16th century in nearly all parts of Europe the prevailing religious authority was Roman Catholicism which controlled directly or via the Monarch what could be printed and the language which could be used, typically Latin. University scholars corresponded and exchanged ideas predominantly in Greek.

In England, despite Henry VIII declaring an ecclesiastic schism with Rome, publications in English of not just bibles but other scientific treatise were prohibited. Translators and printers engaged in producing texts in English could be executed for treason.

Who was the most important English herbalist of this era? John Gerard (1545-1612) is one contender followed by Nicholas Culpeper (1616-58). But is this correct? Certainly Gerard's name is well-known but even amongst his contemporaries he was not considered scholarly and used his influential friends to promote him. Culpeper's name has been etched into our history and such his reputation is well-earned and consequently his name has become a brand synonymous with the utility of herbs in medicine, food and perfumes. However, I would like to propose that the foremost English herbalist was in fact the Rev. William Turner (1509-68) who developed a new philosophy around a hundred years earlier. Sadly few will have heard of him, not because he wasn't scholarly, rather that he developed his theories on plant taxonomy and the

utility of herbs at a time in England when going against Galen contradicted strict religious beliefs relating to 'The Creation'. Consequently, he became unable to study or publish in England. Thomas Cromwell and others in Henry VIII's Court persuaded Henry to rule it a crime to 'receive, have, take, or kepe...any manner of booke printed or written' by Turner as well as ten other authors.

Two of Turner's academic colleagues at Cambridge were subsequently executed and Turner had to flee to The Netherlands. After Henry III's death William returned under the short reign of Edward VI only to flee again on the succession of Mary I who again imposed religious intolerance and persecution. Turner went to Germany and became a Calvinist but was able to return to England under Elizabeth I. Sadly Turner remains largely unknown despite being the first Englishmen to publish a herbal. Unfortunately, all but his first book on natural history including his herbal: 'The Names of Herbes' were published not in England or in the English language but in German. In his time his magnificent herbal was never translated into English.

For the following 100 years or so herbals of ever-increasing sophistication were produced as more universities created elaborate physic gardens. In the 17th century the investigation of plants eventually removed the shackles of Ancient Greece and gradually evolved into a scientific study of plant life which today we might recognise as botany. However, with the realisation that there was a world of new plants ready to be exploited across the Atlantic Ocean and in the East Indies the era when the focus on these ever more elaborate herbals was over. Instead, the minds of academics were turned by the entrepreneurs who were risking all to discover and bring back trees, shrubs and plants from the Colonies that were of economic value.

For example, in three voyages between

1768 and 1779 Captain Cook discovered new lands which he explored with his plantsmen and artists. In an age before large heated glass houses Cook could not bring specimens of the entire flora he discovered back to the newly developed Kew Gardens in England. To overcome this, Cook's great innovation was the development of strategically located botanic gardens which enabled him to redistribute plants from one continent to another with a compatible climate. Though initiated in the 18th century his idea came to fruition under the leadership of his chief naturalist, Joseph Banks. Under Banks' influence rather than herbals his artists were commissioned to produce beautifully illustrated catalogues displaying every feature of the new species or plant varieties they discovered.

Using these spectacular volumes Banks' could persuade those rich enough to invest in newly established plantations that were being developed in far flung colonies in the West Indies, in South Africa and in New South Wales. These colourful journals became prized possessions of wealthy citizens who were in the position to impress their family and friends. In time cheaper versions were developed through the commissioning of reprints and through 'publishing factories' producing hand-painted versions, albeit of an inferior quality, which were within the financial reach of the Victorian middle classes. In the early 20th century the aspiring upper middle classes might also invest in garden landscaping, flowerbed design, a comprehensive plant list and planting schedule reproduced from one of the over 400 bespoke country garden designs originally prepared by Gertrude Jekyll.

Whatever your interest in plants, be it as part of enjoying wild places, visiting country houses or pottering about in a back garden, it still remains a very peculiar English passion which we are all perfectly placed to enjoy.

chrisbrown@rayshill.com

John Garner

1938 - 2018

You may have known John as a neighbour, his having lived here since 1992, firstly at Martens in Buckland Common and then at Montana in Shire Lane which was John and Di's marital home for 23 years. He was also Chairman of the Horticultural Society, a position he held for 13 years. I have sat on many Committees yet have never seen a chairman rattle through an AGM with the speed and dexterity of John Garner, always keen to get the business over and the wine glasses topped up.

John was also a member of the Mid Bucks Beekeepers: a very knowledgeable apiarist, happy to help novice beekeepers and also a diligent swarm catcher. I was touched and privileged on the day John died to accompany Di when she announced his death to John's bees, as tradition dictates one should.

The Commons Preservation Society also benefited from John's input as a committee member for two years and chainsaw-wielding volunteer for more years than any of us can actually calculate.

John stood resolutely behind Di's commitment to open Montana's gardens for the Yellow Book in July 2010 and continuing until May 2015. Approximately 2,500 visitors have enjoyed the gardens in which they toiled with great vision to make it what it is today whilst raising over £5,000 for charity.

More latterly he was a reliable and generous member of the Cholesbury Village Hall Committee, even during his failing health. John and Di were the first of the villagers to welcome visiting children from Belarus and continued to do so for some years. A very fortunate number of local



teenagers have learnt, as John's Saturday boys, the vital life skills of good time-keeping, the rudiments of horticulture and the fine art of chicken dispatching.

A short while after Di's devastating announcement of John's ill health back in February 2017 I wrote John a letter. I always think how ridiculous it is that we tell all those gathered at a funeral how wonderful the deceased was, yet having seldom taken that opportunity to tell them ourselves. I hope this will strike a chord with many of you and so I give you my précised letter to our friend John Garner, happy in the knowledge that he got to read it before you all got to hear it...

*"Dear John Garner,
Can you believe, I remember precisely the first time I met you - we were all at The Webbs at April Cottage for a bit of a musical soiree. You came up to me and said 'Do I have to curtsy before I speak to you?' As first impressions go, it was probably not the most auspicious.*

So imagine my surprise when sometime later you and Di declared yourselves a couple and I remember thinking 'Who on earth is this man - I don't know him at all!' But with a strong belief that good people usually end up with good people I thought I'd better go to Martens and meet this John Garner. So, for the first time - but certainly not the last - I left your home very much the worse for wear having drunk far too much Becks, which you dutifully kept topping me up with!

And so I gradually got to know the man who had captured the heart of my friend of over 30 years. I have lost count of the number of times you and Di have entertained us in your wonderful home - where one really can just kick off one's shoes and relax. Food is wonderful, booze is plentiful, conversation is interesting, rude, riotous and irreverent in turn - convivial is probably the right word - it's just like being at home.

We will think of you always as someone who, whatever the job, does things 'right' - it will be done well, precisely and thoroughly - with a twinkle in his eye, a smile on his face and a heavy slug of irreverence coursing through his veins. John you have that rare quality to listen, to be both interesting and interested in equal measure, state your case but give a fair hearing; this is a rare quality indeed.

You know John that we will take great care of Di and help her through whatever lays ahead. It is I think unusual that one is equally fond of both people who make up a couple and we have been so very lucky to have the Garners in our life.

With happy memories, great affection and fondest love, John Garner - we will miss you".

Janet Hopkinson



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Liz Green elected Sheriff of the City of London

Twice a year the Liverymen of the City of London elect from their ranks the officers for the "year ensuing". At Midsummer they elect two Sheriffs and at Michaelmas they elect the Lord Mayor. In June they elected Cholesbury's Liz Green to be one of the Sheriffs. From September, when her year in office begins, Liz (with husband Peter's support) will spend her time involved in the civic activities of the City, principally by supporting the Lord Mayor.

What does all this mean? First, the City of London in this case is the area of about a square mile around St Paul's, the Bank of England and the Tower (where the Romans first settled in London).

History and tradition remain important in the City, which is governed by its own Mayor and council - the GLA and its mayor have no role in the City. The City's first Lord Mayor was in 1189 but the office of Sheriff is much older, going back to Saxon times and from about 1130 the citizens of the City had gained the right to elect the two Sheriffs.

The "citizens" are the Liverymen of the various Livery Companies. The Liveries in the Middle Ages were trade guilds – Bakers, Butchers, Blacksmiths and so on. You had to be a guild member to carry on the trade governed by a guild. Today there are 110 Livery Companies (new Companies, such as Information Technologists – granted Livery in 1992, can still be formed) with about 25,000 liverymen in total (from the UK and all over the world). All Liveries still

have strong trade connections and all are involved in charitable works and education (together, the Livery Companies give over £40m a year to charity). Liz is a Framework Knitter – historically linked to the hosiery trade. I am a Pattenmaker - a patten was a type of clog or overshoe and today we are connected to the shoe trade.

The elections take place in Common Hall: that is, the election is by the liverymen present on the day and is by a show of hands. The election of the Lord Mayor could be contested, but never is. By contrast, the shrieval election this year was contested among three candidates. Liz won by a wide margin with more than 700 votes - about 1,200 liverymen were present in person to vote.

As a Sheriff, Liz will support the Lord Mayor in that office. The most important role of the LM is to speak for the UK Financial Services sector (and it is the whole of that sector, not just those businesses in London). As such, the LM is normally someone who has had a notable business career. The LM, often accompanied by one of the Sheriffs, spends up to a third of his or her year overseas as a trade ambassador banging the drum for the UK generally and its financial services sector in particular. The LM is also chief Magistrate, Lord Lieutenant, and oversees all that the Corporation (ie the City) does. The City owns five Thames bridges, runs Old Bailey, supervises Billingsgate Fishmarket, owns the Barbican arts centre, looks after Hampstead Heath and does many more things which it pays for (ie they are not funded by general taxation). With such responsibilities, the Sheriffs assist by sharing the burden by



Liz in the City, supported by her family

accompanying, or substituting for the LM at functions, welcoming guests, making visits, giving speeches and so on.

In an echo of their ancient role of administering justice, the Sheriffs today have special responsibility for Old Bailey and looking after HM Judges sitting there. Every day that the Courts are sitting, one of the Sheriffs is on duty as host in the Judges' dining room.

I am sure that all in the Hilltop Villages join me in wishing Liz much success. She and Peter, who will accompany her to many events, will have a hard working but also very interesting and hugely rewarding year.

Tim Watts

Footnote: in the City, titles describe a role not the person. The Lord Mayor is Lord Mayor even when she is a lady. Similarly, Livery Company Masters who are ladies are addressed as Master and a Liveryman can be a woman or a man.

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CURVACEOUS COOK



Lavender Crème Brulee

I am aware that I don't often write about puddings, mainly because I don't often eat them, but we were given this one a couple of years ago and it has stuck in my memory.

This recipe is from Sarah Raven (or Saint Sarah as she is known in our household!), serves 6, and would be a lovely finish to any late summer meal, or any time of year to be honest, but best made with fresh flowers. As with many of my favourite recipes, it can be prepared ahead of time.

6 egg yolks

1 level tbs caster sugar

2 tsp vanilla extract (not the flavouring) I use the paste and just use 1 tsp

725 ml double cream

4 lavender flowers (this is a subtle taste)

2 tbs demerara sugar

Beat the egg yolks, caster sugar and vanilla together

In a heavy saucepan, heat the cream and flowers to simmering point. Remove from the heat and allow flavours to infuse for about 10 minutes. Strain through a fine sieve into a bowl which fits over a shallow saucepan of simmering water. The bottom of the bowl should not touch the water.

Add the egg mixture and keep stirring. Gently cook the cream until it is just thick enough to coat the back of a wooden spoon.

Remove from the heat and pour into an ovenproof dish, or 6 individual ramekins, and chill in the fridge for at least 4 hours.

When well chilled, carefully sprinkle the demerara sugar onto the cold cream and either use a blowtorch or put under a preheated really hot grill. About 8-10cm below the heat. Watch carefully until the sugar has turned to a golden caramel.

Let them cool until the sugar hardens and serve, maybe with some thin shortbread.

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A true village character

Over my 65 years I have been very lucky to meet some amazing and extraordinary people. One such person was my old friend Edgar Taylor (1898-1994).

Edgar lived with his wife Molly in the bungalow between Bowmore Farm and the Full Moon Pub. He was an architect and a very talented artist. Unfortunately, in his later life poor Edgar became almost blind - a terrible thing to happen to anybody, let alone an artist.

When I moved back to the village I went to the Full Moon for a pint, leaving my old Land Rover outside. Several of the old locals said that leaving my car by the door wasn't a good idea, so I moved it. On my return, I hadn't had a mouthful of beer when there was a crash outside. I was about to rush outside but they just laughed and said, "Don't worry, it's only Edgar!" I was told that Edgar drove here from home, hugging the white lines, then backed up towards the pub. Owing to his poor eyesight, Edgar would back up till he hit the Pub!

I have always wanted to write Edgar's story down so some of you out there would also appreciate just how lucky we are to be where we are because of special people like him.

When the First World War broke out Edgar joined up with the artist rifles, but as soon as the RFC (Royal Flying Corps) was created Edgar lied about his age (he was barely 18!) and joined up with the 56th Squadron that was stationed in Arras in France (this was the squadron that shot down the Red Baron). He flew Sopwith Camels and SE5's. He only crashed twice, which apparently was pretty good, only sustaining a broken nose! After the war



Edgar trained at the London University to be an architect.

He met Molly in 1920 and they were married in Twickenham in 1924. They were on a train in London and picked up a newspaper in the carriage. Turning to the Property for Sale section they found an advert for a tiny cottage called Heath End Cottage. It had an outside tap and an earth closet down the garden!

Apparently, once a week a chap would come around with a horse-drawn dunny cart to empty the toilet! Even with the primitive toilet and water arrangements it was far more acceptable than living in London. They lived there for about three years before moving to Wayside in 1927 (this is now Steve and Pam Cheeld's house). In the 1930s they moved to a large house in Berkhamsted until 1939 when he volunteered again to join the RAF. He was once again stationed in France - Arras again - until the fall of France when he was ordered to be evacuated from Dunkirk. He was the senior officer with around twenty airmen under his command.

They set off for Dunkirk by train, bike and walking, but discovered the roads were pretty well impassable, so Edgar decided they stood a better chance if they struck out to the south of Dunkirk.

Nothing was heard of Edgar and his men until two weeks after Dunkirk had been evacuated. They had moved along the coast until they found a fishing boat that they "borrowed" and sailed across the Channel and home. All Edgar had when he got home was an overcoat and a gas mask! All his young airmen were re-assigned to other flying stations and Edgar was sent to Tangmere for the Battle of Britain.

After a while he was sent to Fraserburgh in Scotland to look after a coastal command station up there. Scotland was a bit quiet for Edgar so he and his men were often to be seen helping the local farmers with the crops. Being such a long way from home, Edgar would write long letters home, but he would also send beautiful, hand drawn pictures of what was going on in the station, on the farms and surrounding area.

At the end of the war Edgar was de-mobbed and returned home to Berkhamsted. He continued in London with his job as an architect: obviously after the war he was very busy designing and building properties damaged by war.

In 1952 Edgar found Milton Cottage where he and Molly lived for the rest of their days in retirement where he involved himself in the village, converting and extending several houses (Mermaid Cottage, Hither Dennetts and Shepherd's Cottage). He also designed the Cricket Pavilion and the extension to the Village Hall.

In 1968/9 The Commons Preservation Society was formed and Edgar was a founder member. He talked me into joining a few years later. On his 90th Birthday he flew in a Tiger Moth over the village and 'looped the loop' over the Full Moon!

In 1976 Edgar booked to fly from Heathrow Airport to Australia. He was well

into his seventies at this time. He had just settled into his seat when the pilot came on the cabin intercom. He asked if Mr Edgar Taylor would do him the honour of coming to the cockpit and occupy the co-pilot's seat as he was one of the last members of the Royal Flying Corps alive at this time! He apparently flew a good way to Australia next to the pilot.

I had a conversation with my dear friend one day, over a pint. It was around the time that America was landing men on the moon. Edgar quietly said, "When I was a very small boy, I remember the Wright Brothers flying the English Channel and today I'm seeing a man land on the moon. I don't think anyone is likely to see this sort of technological advancement in one life time!" This conversation had a most profound effect on me.

This lovely, quiet man and men just like him have moulded and built the world we have today.

He died peacefully in his own bed at the age of 96, after a day in his garden tying up his sweet peas.

Thanks to you Edgar, we all owe you so much. The world is a poorer place without you and your kind. Thank you to Rosemary and her family for allowing me to write Edgar's story.

Mike Wallis

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Dear Diary

August 2018
22nd Tea Party – St Leonards Church Room – 3pm
27th Hawridge & Cholesbury Churches Fete – Cholesbury Common – 1.30-4.30pm

September 2018
1st Hort Soc Annual Show – H&C School – 2.30pm
16th Harvest Festival & Supper – St Leonards Parish Hall
17th WI – St Leonards Parish Hall – 8pm
24th Parish Council Meeting – Cholesbury Village Hall – 8pm
26th Tea Party – St Leonards Church Room – 3pm

October 2018
5th 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.

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