

Hilltop News

A group of people, including an elderly woman with a backpack, a child, and a man in a hat, are walking through a field of yellow wildflowers. The background shows a dense line of green trees under a clear blue sky.

August & September 2019

Sporting inspiration!

As I prepare this issue of Hilltop News, a 'Super Sunday' of sport has seen a classic Wimbledon Men's Final, Lewis Hamilton winning another Grand Prix at Silverstone and, to cap it all, England's cricketers winning the World Cup for the first time – and at Lords, the home of cricket – in the most thrilling and dramatic game ever seen. There is nothing like sport to inspire and bring joy to everyone. Our young cricketers at Hawridge & Cholesbury lack nothing in enthusiasm: the events of 14 July can only encourage more to take part.



Pulling together! The Hilltop Villagers put on another successful show.

Well done H&C School, who kicked off the summer in great style with their prize-winning contribution to the Chesham Carnival.

The sun shone again on the annual **St Leonards Parish Hall Fete**. For the fourth year running we enjoyed fine, even hot, weather which helped bring in scores of visitors and raise welcome funds for refurbishment in St Leonards Parish Hall. Later in June, after the weather had taken a wet turn, 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!

Also in this issue:

- **Nicki Tullett** shows us how she goes about creating wonderful botanical illustrations
- Our **Curvaceous Cook** serves up another tasty treat

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

100 NATURE NOTES

A short while ago, Hilltop News celebrated its 100th edition. A regular feature for nearly all issues has been Chris Brown's Nature Notes. It says much for Chris's knowledge and commitment that his feature has now, with this issue, appeared in Hilltop News 100 times.

Not only does Chris contribute Nature Notes, but also the reports for the Local History Group and Good Neighbours Group, both of which he supervises. Constantly serving the local community, Chris has been on the Parish Council for many years and has just been elected Chairman. For good measure, he was awarded 'Parish Councillor of the Year' in 2016.

In his 100th Nature Notes, Chris focuses on the one species he has not yet written about – us! On behalf of the Hilltop News team, thank you Chris: your regular contributions have been most welcome and we look forward to them continuing...Ed



THE PARISH COUNCIL

Following the Parish Council's repeated requests and reminders, the Post Office has eventually arranged for a new post box to be installed by St Leonards Church, to replace the one stolen.

Last Summer/Autumn the section of road from The Vale to Cholesbury was repaired. Sadly, the quality of this work was substandard and, together with our County Councillor Patricia Birchley, the parish council made representations to Transport for Bucks to have this work redone to an acceptable standard. The Parish Council has been advised that the surface dressing, which was poorly applied last time, is to be cleaned off and a new surface dressing applied in August.

In May the Shadow Buckinghamshire Council was launched. From April 2020 this new Unitary Authority will replace the present County and District Councils. The Parish Council is now participating in meetings to contribute to the shape and development of the new services and how residents can locally access information and advice face-to-face with Council staff.

REVD. DAN BEESLEY

We are most fortunate to have the support of Revd. Dan Beesley until the end of November during David's absence. Dan will be in the Hilltop Villages on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays and can be contacted on 07590 123603 or revdbeesley@gmail.com.

EDWARD (TED) BROWN

It is with sadness we report the death, on 4th July, of Ted Brown, who lived at Chiltern Cottages in Buckland Common. A celebration of Ted's life will appear in the next edition of Hilltop News.

The Chiltern/South Bucks District Council's Draft Local Plan was published for consultation in June/July. The Parish Council has submitted a response to the Government appointed inspector examining these proposals. The main focus of the submission is on a potential, albeit moderate, lessening of the level of protection afforded to prevent development by infilling within our village centres.

At our May meeting John Allen stepped down as Chairman after many years of service. Chris Brown was appointed Chairman and Bill Ingram as the Vice-Chairman. The Parish Council is now looking for a new Councillor to join them. If you would like to find out more about this rewarding role, please contact me (see below). I can put you in touch with one of the Councillors to learn more about what is involved.

Meeting dates and other Parish Council information can be found on the website www.cholesburyparishcouncil.org.uk Please do take the opportunity to visit the site, which contains information about Parish Council activities, meetings and finances as well as useful contact details for local authorities, public utilities and community organisations. The next meeting is on **Monday 23 September** at 8pm at St Leonards Parish Hall.

Hayley Farrelly, Parish Clerk, 07769-698652 or email parishclerk.ccsipc@gmail.com

Your councillors are:

Chris Brown (Chairman): 758890
Bill Ingram (Vice-Chairman): 758258
Nigel Blomfield: 758314
Diane Brackley: 01296 625081
Philip Matthews: 758205
Francis Sanger: 758767

THE COUNTY COUNCIL

It is the time of year when we want to thank our schools for their sterling efforts in giving all our young people the best possible start in life. They deserve our thanks for their outstanding work in teaching our children the curriculum, and also for the extra mile they all go in providing such a wonderful start in life and creating the environment where children enjoy learning. We can be really proud of our teachers in Buckinghamshire - they are amongst the very best!



Over the past month you have been in touch about the speed of traffic, village entry signs, speed measurement and home-to-school transport. The County has spent additional money this year on road improvements and Swan Lane has been closed for re-surfacing. Our Local Area Technician, Joe Saunders, has worked hard and is happy to come and meet the Parish Council to discuss road and safety improvements.

Preparations for the new Buckinghamshire Council are moving ahead, involving the Shadow Cabinet and officers from all five councils in an increased workload. I am personally committed to the Shadow Scrutiny Committee which looks at the Budget, the Implementation Board (supported by the Programme Boards) and communications. In other words, making sure our services are fit for purpose on 1st April 2020. The Chief Executives of the District Councils are all moving on and I am here to answer any queries you may have about the new Buckinghamshire Council. That said, I am confident we can continue to offer the best local government

services by reducing our estate and cutting back office costs.

Did you know that last year the Chilterns Conservation Board secured funding of £695,000 for the Hillforts Project, £4 million for CCB-led projects in the Chilterns and from every £1 they received from our local councils they generated a further £6 and had 273,000 visits to their website? Both CCB and the Chiltern Society have worked strenuously to resist HS2, and you may well have seen my letter in the Sunday Telegraph on 2nd June roundly condemning the whole project!

Please let me know if I can help in raising your concerns with officers at County Hall.

*Tricia Birchley
County Councillor, Chiltern Ridges
pbirchley@buckscc.gov.uk
01296 651823, 0771 470 4017*

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HAWRIDGE AND CHOLESBURY C OF E SCHOOL



The Spring Fayre was a great success and, if you came along, we hope you enjoyed yourselves. The event was well organised by all involved and the money raised will go towards new interactive whiteboards in the classrooms. Soon afterwards Sports Day was well timed with the weather and enjoyed a full day of races: Key Stage 1 in the morning and Key Stage 2 in the afternoon. Parents came along to cheer on the children and picnic in the beautiful surroundings the school is lucky to have. Most neighbours could probably hear the cheers of the medal ceremony as the school house points for the races were tallied up the following morning.

In June the 45th Schools of Chesham Carnival took place with a theme of Global Landmarks and the school chose Egypt and the Pyramids. The float was a real team effort by the children. The school's brilliant art club decorated a large column with hieroglyphics and painted a fantastic backdrop of the pyramids. Year 4 created Egyptian masks that hung off the side of the trailer and Windmills (reception) made snakes, camels and flags to wave along with Egyptian Pharaoh collars which were worn as they rode along the float. After a wet morning the sun came out just in time for the parade and nearly 40 pupils danced their way along the route to 'Walk like an

Egyptian', accompanied by their parents. It was a great day, the children were fantastic and were rewarded for their efforts with second prize. Thank you very much to local company P Matthews Agricultural who very kindly supplied our tractor and trailer. All of the money raised during the day will be split between the schools who took part and will be used to directly benefit the children.

Whilst many children were working on the float, Year 5 were working hard on a 'Make a Difference' challenge. This is an inter-school, child-led, social action project providing pupils from Key Stage 2 the opportunity to identify and research a social or environmental project they feel passionate about. The Year 5 children chose 'Deforestation' and 'Damage to Animal Habitats' and put in a lot of hard work on their chosen topics including creating additional animal habitats in the school and on the Common and creating a

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A Carnival of fun!

scrapbook of all the work they had done. This culminated in a celebration event, with many Buckinghamshire schools taking part, at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury. The children dressed up as something from the world of nature, sang a song they had written themselves whilst holding up placards they had created and made their presentation on the stage. I am pleased to say that they also gained first prize!

Amongst other arranged trips, Year 3 visited Kew Gardens to support their science

topic on plants with an education session run by Kew called 'Plant Scientists'. Years 3 and 4 went to Tring School to watch an interactive science show. Windmills have been doing Forest Schools and, as tradition seems to hold for most schools, the end of school play, Olivia (a female Oliver), is about to have its first show.

As we say goodbye to the existing Year 6 it will not be long before the new Windmills will be knocking at the school gate.

James Morris

CHOLESBURY CUM ST LEONARDS HORT SOC

In the last edition of Hilltop News I said that I thought the coach trip this year was an exciting prospect and so it proved to be...

Diana Mills reports that "Undeterred, members set off on our annual coach outing on a grey and damp June morning, so unlike the heatwave we experienced last year. We visited two beautiful gardens; open for the NGS by appointment only. Rooksnest is a traditional but continually developing garden with its wonderful newly designed rose garden and wildflower meadows leading to the meadows beyond. A real country garden and Kevin the Head Gardener's enthusiasm was contagious.

The second garden, Malverleys, was a complete contrast. A modern garden with different rooms and moods and a riot of colour on the parterre where plants had been allowed to self-seed. We all had our favourite and plenty of ideas to bring home but we all agreed that they were two of the best gardens we have visited".

The garden visit on Friday 22 June proved similarly interesting:

Stephen Tricks reports "The combination of a dry spring and a wet June does not help gardeners, but Alan and Sandra Freeman showed how well they can do it when they opened their garden to members of the Horticultural Society. Situated on Brown's Lane in Hastoe, the garden provides wonderful views of the Hilltop countryside, but exploring the garden itself was a real delight. Open lawn led to a pond surrounded by interesting plants; then on to a wooded area and finally an immaculate vegetable plot with picket fences to keep out the rabbits. Visitors enjoyed wine and nibbles along with the latest gossip. All in a good cause with £248 raised for Macmillan Cancer Support".



My latest garden visit was to Winterbourne Gardens in Edgbaston, Birmingham last weekend: well worth a visit if in the area. They are Jekyll style (not Jekyll designed) with an interesting incorporation of a large pool outside the boundaries.

In our gardens we have had some rain but the serious heavy stuff always seem to pass us by and the soil is not damp to any great depth. Newly planted trees and shrubs will need topping up and the annuals and shallow rooted plants monitored.

Hopefully those growing vegetables are harvesting them now. It is important to keep doing this to keep the produce coming. It is tempting not to pick vegetables that you have no immediate use for but this will make the plant think its job is over as it will start to set seed.

My wisteria was spectacular in May and is now sending out long tendrils. I prune regularly that which is obscuring the windows or heading for the roof space but leave the first major prune until August. The second pruning, which encourages the flowers, is in February.

Rabbits are proving a nuisance again – netting is widespread in an effort to get small plants established but even these are not immune. Sadly, the only effective control is myxomatosis which we had a few years ago. Blocking warrens to encourage them to go into neighbouring fields has some effect but obviously my flowering plants are more appealing. We are also getting the occasional visit from deer, both roe and muntjac, which many of us have

noticed are more widespread this year. This damage tends to be more on trees and shrubs. Closing the entrance gate should work as I think they come overnight.

A final reminder of the **Annual Show on 7 September** – entries to Roseann Vince at 11 Sandpit Hill Cottages by Wednesday 4 September. The full schedule is available at cholesbury.com/hort-soc or a printed copy from Roseann.

Sarah Tricks

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The Local History Group had another successful season with membership numbers again in the nineties.

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

Hopefully we have come up with a quality selection of speakers and topics for the new season of talks starting in October.

We open our season of evening meetings on **Friday 4th October**. The talk is entitled Buckinghamshire Murders. Our speaker is Dr Jonathan Oates, who was born in Amersham and is the Ealing Borough Archivist and Local History Librarian. He has written several books and lectures on aspects of the history of London and the Home Counties, including their criminal past.

Our second meeting is on **Friday 1st November** when we hear about The Oxford of Inspector Morse from Alistair Lack. After a career in teaching, then the BBC World Service, he moved to Oxford where he is a freelance journalist and guide for tours of the University.



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

Our 6th December meeting is a talk about the Duke of Windsor with Tony Eaton, postponed last year due to the snow! (See next *Hilltop News* for details).

For members and regular visitors, we look forward to seeing you once again. If you are new to the area or have just not got around to coming along, why not try out one of our meetings. Look out for more information on all these in *Hilltop News*, or on Grapevine. Yellow poster boards will appear on the roadsides at St Leonards and Cholesbury about a week before the next meeting. Visitors pay just £4 at the door.

Membership for the whole year is also great value - just £10 for adults and free for those 16 years and under. 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 (01494 758890)
email: localhistorygroup@cholesbury.com

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Shelagh England will be hosting a MacMillan Coffee Morning on Buckland Common on Friday 27 September from 11am to 1pm. Everyone welcome.

For more information phone Shelagh on 758718.



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY COMMONS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Calendar

It will soon be time for us to start putting the 2020 Calendar together and we hope that you will send us any good photos that you have with a local theme. Please remember that, although photos taken on your phone or iPad are often stunning, they are not high enough resolution to make a main picture. However, please send them anyway because we can make composites for some of the months and, as you know, we also use smaller photos for the inside cover and Commontage sections. Contenders are best in portrait format for the front cover but in landscape for a full month image. These need to be taken on a camera.

This year we have decided to change the name of the calendar to Hilltop Villages Calendar since we now have a number of wonderful entries from photographers outside Hawridge and Cholesbury and we feel that the name should reflect everyone's contributions. The proceeds of the calendar will still go to help maintain H&C Commons, which can be enjoyed by all.

Please send any entries to lindsaygriffin@yahoo.co.uk by 16 September.

Village Picnic

The picnic was a very pleasant afternoon

though the weather wasn't a scorcher as in previous years. The band BURP played an incredible variety of music and are always a pleasure to listen to. The Cricket Club barbeque and drinks from the pavilion were kept busy. Though Ballinger Under 11s had to call off, the kids from our side had a good time playing other games.

School visits

It has been a real pleasure to work with Rosie Reid's Year 5 class from H&C School on their 'Make a Difference Challenge'. Their interest in and commitment to preserving and creating wildlife habitats is impressive to see and we hope to be able to continue to collaborate with them in any way we can in the future. In early June, John Kilpatrick helped them put up bird boxes and he and I were asked detailed questions by Scarlett, Poppy and other class members about what HCCPS do on the Commons to help wildlife.

The children wrote of their experiences: 'We saw John put up some bird boxes and he told us what sort of birds would fit in them' (Milly): 'I really liked seeing all the bird boxes hanging in the trees as it is giving birds homes' (Millie Mc): 'It was really interesting to find that you have to put the bird boxes facing a specific way' (Ella). (NB - They should not face south since the adults can keep the young warm but can't do anything about them overheating!).

In early July, we all went back to construct their bug hotel. The children's enthusiasm was palpable. They arrived with many suitable materials to help fill the gaps in the pallets and with a very impressive sign made by Daniel. They then went off to find more items around the Common. 'It was very peaceful and natural. I found plants that I didn't even know existed' (Louie).

In early July, David Dennis entertained the children with the contents of the previous evening's moth trap – well



Our school Makes a Difference!

over 300 moths had arrived in just the one night! These included some of the spectacular hawk-moths which the children were amazed to find would stay quite still on their outstretched fingers. David then gave a talk and presentation, showing how a caterpillar turns into a chrysalis, and a chrysalis into a butterfly. Finally, using a net on the Commons, five different species of butterfly were temporarily captured so that the children could see them close to and observe their subtle differences.

The children had also held a cake stall at which they made over £100 which they intend to spend on plants which are favoured by insect pollinators to put in the school grounds. They presented their project in Aylesbury where they, very deservedly, won the competition for best scrapbook on their chosen topic.

Species Surveys

Dave and Mary Braddock returned in July to continue to survey plants and insects on the Commons. They also hope to look for bats. Despite the cold weather during their May visit Dave observed...

Birds – Most of the birds seen last time are showing signs of breeding. Summer migrants had started to arrive and several species missed last time were found this

weekend. 46 species were seen and 14 new species were added to the total seen around the Common in 2019, which now stands at an impressive 55 species.

Plants – The findings so far from the tree/shrub and wild flower survey show that there are many species on the Common that you would expect to find in Ancient woodlands and old Commons. Quite a lot of these were used as medicinal plants in years gone by and several have interesting old English names. 85 species have been identified so far. It will take time to cross reference these with what has historically been seen here. A full report should be ready next time.

Invertebrates – The invertebrate survey got off to a slow start due to the cold weather. This should pick up as the weather gets warmer. 14 species were found and identified despite the cold and wet. The highlights of the survey were six species of Bumblebee and several Hairy-footed Flower Bees seen in the sunny areas.

Moths – David Dennis and Peter Bygate continue to carry out moth trapping every month or two and continue to find species that have not previously been spotted on the Commons. As moths are key indicators of environmental health and vital pollinators of our plants, it is encouraging

to know that we have healthy numbers here on the Commons.

Work on the heather area

On a recent visit to the Commons, Rod Griffin described the heather regeneration program as 'the big success story of recent years' here. However, he advised that we should remove the birch and oak seedlings which would ultimately shade out the heather. This was hard work for volunteers using hand tools but proved much easier using our tree popper bought a year or so ago. Ideally, we would like to extend the heather area and Rod suggested perhaps going up towards the main road rather than downhill where there is a lot of gorse, which would also outcompete the heather, but which is also a valuable plant. It would be interesting to hear from older residents about where heather grew in the past. For example, Mermaid Cottage was once three cottages and the middle one, occupied by Mick James' family, was named Heatherside, so presumably there was some there.

Barn Owls/boxes

Despite the wet weather, which makes hunting for food difficult for Barn Owls, four healthy chicks were ringed in our boxes on Christine's fields. We have ordered a further two owl boxes to be put up near to the Bottom Ride on Hawridge Common.

Cutting foliage

We were very grateful to James Jolliffe who managed to find a break in the weather in mid-June to cut the verges and paths when the foliage was growing at a great rate. The Council are obliged to cut the verges only once a year and they had done so before the growing season really took off. We are also impressed with the work which our volunteers have done using our wheeled trimmer to keep small paths open. Thank you too to Mark Gardner for his work on the triangle opposite Sandpit Hill Cottages.

Drones/model aircraft

Unfortunately, the person or persons using these has been spotted again near to the cricket ground. If you see this happening please tell them that this is not permitted on Hawridge or Cholesbury Commons. They would require Christine's permission and she is not prepared to give it.

Fire

There were also signs of a fire on Cholesbury Commons recently. This is an offence as it is in breach of the Bye-Laws and could also pose a real threat when everything is so dry.

Lindsay Griffin

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The latest Neighbourhood Watch e-newsletter

mentions promotional posters, one of which makes the point that Neighbourhood Watch is not about curtain-twitching, rather that it is a community support organisation where neighbours look out for each other. This was emphasised when I met very recently with the Chiltern Local Policing Area Multi-scheme Administrator. More on this in the next issue of *Hilltop News*. Meanwhile, Thames Valley Neighbourhood Alert have useful messages about home safety while residents are away during the Summer months.



CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS W.I.

In May we talked about and voted on the two resolutions going forward to the June National AGM in Bournemouth. The report from our delegate to the AGM was on the table at the June meeting for people to read: both resolutions (to save local bus services and to tackle the decline in the cervical screening programme) had passed with a huge majority.

Also in May three of our members, Carol Henry, Sylvia Lee and Di Amies, visited the Postal Museum in London, where they learned that letter boxes were originally painted green and were hexagonal in shape - however, people living in the country complained that the boxes couldn't be seen and the colour was changed to red. Letters also got stuck in the corners and so they made them round. They also took a tunnel ride on the Mail Rail which used to take letters and parcels from the train station to the sorting office at Mount Pleasant. This one-kilometre length of track was the world's first driverless electric railway. They all agreed that it had been a great day out.



Museum piece: delivery in style

St Leonards Fete took place on June 1st - a day with lovely weather. The Cake Stall was well provided with cakes donated by members and residents and the kitchen helpers were kept busy with requests for tea and cakes together with scones made by Ellie Redding.

In June Margaret Harris stepped in when our booked speaker had to cancel. 'Colour and Style' was the topic and as an image consultant and personal stylist, Margaret was able to give a very good talk and presentation which completely fitted the original title. She brought a beautiful array of coloured material samples and demonstrated how the right colour can make you look so much better. Two volunteers stepped forward for Margaret to show how this works, with members being encouraged to voice their opinions! The two then had a light make-up applied to complement their best colour and their facial tone. Margaret also spoke about how to dress well and to buy good clothes and look after them, and showed how accessories help. This she demonstrated by taking off her necklace, rings and watch, which really did show the difference. A very enjoyable evening.

The Institute celebrates its 40th Birthday in July to be followed in August by an afternoon visit to Broughton Castle near Banbury. September is to be a Member's Evening. For more information and details please get in touch with Carol Henry (758435).

Shirley Blomfield (758314)

HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CRICKET CLUB

Seniors

The season so far has been something of a struggle for the Saturday Mid Bucks League team, but hopefully a corner has been turned after a couple of good wins recently.

Player availability has severely hampered captain Ian Hames' efforts and the team remained winless and bottom of the league until early June. However, a resounding win against Challoners, a close defeat by just 2 wickets to the league leaders Aylesbury Town and an excellent victory over Wendover by 5 wickets, avenging the defeat on the opening day of the season, has moved us off the bottom and looking upwards. With key players now becoming available after returning from university or finishing school term, we should be stronger in both batting and bowling and look forward to getting back up to the comfortable mid-table position we have occupied in recent seasons.

The Sunday friendly side, captained by Andy Holdsworth, has had an interrupted season so far, with a number of games called off due to the weather or the opposition pulling out at the last minute. The games that have been played have produced mixed results. Player availability has again been difficult, but is thankfully improving with the recruitment of some new blood. Some of the older colts should also become available now that exams are over. Star performers have been James Wood and Harri Doyle with the bat and Digger Reading with the ball.



Colts

The weather earlier in the season caused a lot of games to be postponed, which we are still catching up. The Under 9s had a slow start, but due to great support from parents ended up with a full team: played 3, won 1 so far, but looking good for next season. The U10s continued with their strong performance from last season and won all 7 of their games and ended as league champions: many congratulations to them! The U11 and U12 teams had to rely on players from younger teams to make up numbers, but were well supported by the coaches and both won more than they lost. The U13s have as yet only played a few matches due to the weather and are still catching up the postponed games. The U14s had a good win against Bledlow Ridge and also still have a number of games to play. Many thanks to parents of all teams for supporting the coaches, and to the coaches who freely give so much of their time.

All Stars

Alexis Shead has again been running our All Stars Cricket sessions on Saturday mornings for boys and girls from 5-8 years old. The sessions have been well attended and the children have obviously been having a lot of fun. Many thanks to Alexis for giving his time and energy.

Hawridge Duathlon

The annual Hawridge Duathlon, in aid of the Arctic One Foundation charity, was hosted by the club on 4th June. It involved a 2.5-mile run, followed by an 11-mile cycle ride and another 2.5-mile run, starting and ending at the Cricket Club. Although the number of participants was less than in previous years, the event was still a success. Club members Ian and Vicky Pudney, Sally Clement and Garry Brown again participated and did the Club proud.



Village Picnic

The annual Village Picnic, jointly run with the Commons Preservation Society, was held on Sunday 23 June. This year, besides the traditional ukulele band, it featured an inter-club colts cricket match. The bar and barbeque were running and a good time was had by the Hilltop villages community.

Date for the Diary

14 September: Colts Awards and Family Fun Day – 1 pm

For news, match reports, photos and more, see our new website (hawridgecholesbury.play-cricket.com) and our Facebook page.

Steve Drane



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Canada Evening

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Sarah has been a Canada specialist for many years and is one of the top 8 agents in the country for Canada. On Tuesday 1st October, Travel Impressions will be hosting a Canada Evening at the Baptist Church in the High Street, Tring from 6pm – 8.30pm. They will be joined by:

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Saturday 7 September 2019 at 2.30 pm
Hawridge & Cholesbury C of E School, Hawridge Common

Free entry in the afternoon



HOME MADE TEAS AND RAFFLE



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 4th September

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 10am.

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

This is a community show to encourage local residents to grow their own produce and join together in this long-running event.



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NHS England www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/exercise-as-you-get-older/

The new Hilltop Villages Relaxation Classes offer weekly 45-minute Sessions to help eliminate stress and to give you the confidence to take those first steps to becoming active in a relaxed, friendly environment.

Rachel, our qualified Instructor, will guide you through a range of gentle relaxation exercises that calm and focus the mind through gentle movement and breathing techniques.

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Participants will be also welcome to join at any time after the first free sessions or start of the start of the set of classes and will pay pro rata for the remaining session in the block.

The classes start on Monday 16 September at Cholesbury Village Hall at 9.45am.

For more information and booking please contact: *Elayne Hughes*: – GLL Community Sport Manager 07880 975 100 Email: Elayne.hughes@GLL.org



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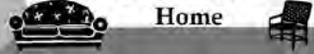
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Sun shines again on showpiece event

The St Leonards Village Fete was blessed with glorious sunshine for the fourth year running on 1st June and it brought many visitors once again into the Parish Hall and field. We are delighted that the money we raised will more than pay for refurbishment of the floor in St Leonards Parish Hall which is taking place this summer.

Matt Baker welcomed the crowds when he officially opened the event at 2pm, following a successful children's horse show, enjoyed by all who attended, and the start of another entertaining dog show led by our veteran canine compere, Jonathon Bright.

We all enjoyed the entertainments we've come to expect from this event such as the lively Morris Men, impressive classic cars, talented Jolly Jazzers (who yet again generously donated their fee to The Hospice of St Francis), and it was wonderful to see so many participants of all ages competing in the tug-of-war, expertly refereed by David Pert.

In addition to the old favourites of welly-wanging, splat-the-rat, coconut shy, stocks, face painting, bouncy castle and merry-go-round; this year a new drop in Circus Skills Workshop saw lots of budding performers unearthing hidden talents such as juggling, plate spinning, stilt walking and diabolo.

High demand for refreshments ensured our WI, bar, barbeque, ice cream and jacket potato teams were fully occupied with many items selling out by the end of the day.

Our resident stallholders were also worked off their feet with huge sales of plants, along with books, bric-a-brac, tombola and raffle tickets. The gate and

parking teams certainly exceeded their daily step counts with the high volume of visitors they coped with.

Our guest stallholders included jewellery, furniture, herbs, gardenalia, hand decorated glasses, dog walking/biscuits and a local cook book writer. In addition to this we were delighted to welcome sergeant Roy Evans and team from Chesham Neighbourhood Police who brought their van for children to investigate, along with their NatWest fraud colleague who provided invaluable guidance in keeping our money safe.

Yet again, this was only possible due to the hard work and dedication of a large team of volunteers from the local community who generously gave up their time to make it happen, along with all those who made donations and spent their money on the day.

Natasha Kate





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Dealing with emotions

Less than ten years ago I became a Christian through traumatic circumstances following the death of my mum.



But this journey started twenty years previously with the death of my dad when I was fourteen years old. This is my testimony of how I came to faith.

With the death of my dad, I blamed God and hated Him after a family friend told me that my dad was with God and that God had taken my dad to be with Him. They were trying (badly) to 'fix' a terrible situation. In fact, at that moment as I sat in my bedroom that statement sent me on a twenty-year journey into atheism, albeit a funny kind of atheism.

Twenty years later my mum died and I decided to deal with a lot of the emotions I didn't or couldn't deal with when my dad died and also to do away with this notion I still had that God took my dad. I told you it was a funny kind of atheism! I really didn't believe there was a God but it was good to blame Him for my dad's death. So, I started to research the truth claims of Christianity in order to prove once and for all to myself that there was no God.

Well, as you read this, as I am now a Vicar writing this article, it was a spectacular failure! When I actually started to look at the truth claims of Christianity I couldn't deny them, even though that is what I set out to do. Why am I telling

you this, you may be thinking? Is he trying to convert me? Well, on one hand, yes, as I always want people to think and to get them to look at the evidence for themselves. On the other hand, that moment in my bedroom with a well-meaning family friend started a journey that has led me to be serving in the Hilltops for several months.

Coming to the Hilltop Villages has been an answer to prayer for me and my family and this is also part of my ongoing testimony. It is going to be an exciting time to get to know people, to share Christ's love and to serve the community and the local churches. It also gives time for David to have space and to know that there is someone here helping to further the Kingdom of God in the Hilltops.

We don't know why certain things happen in our lives and I have learnt that God doesn't cause bad things to happen. He didn't 'take' my dad and mum - they both died of natural causes. What I do understand is that God can and will work through all of these tragedies of life to bring about good things. It may not seem like it sometimes but I believe that He does and my life is a testament to that.

Many blessings,

By Revd. Dan Beesley

Interim Associate Minister of The Lee and Hilltop Benefice

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SERVICES AND CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE FOUR PARISHES: AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2019

| DATE | DAY | St John the Baptist THE LEE | | St Leonard's ST LEONARDS | | St Laurence CHOLESBURY | | St Mary's HAWRIDGE | |
|---------|------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 4 Aug | Trinity 7 | 8.00 am 10.00 am | Holy Communion All Age Worship | 11.00 am | Parish Communion with a Baptism | 9.30 am | BCP Communion | 9.30 am | Family Service |
| 11 Aug | Trinity 8 | 10.00 am | Parish Communion | 10.00 am Morning Worship at Cholesbury [Patronal Service with Refreshments] | | | | | |
| 18 Aug | Trinity 9 | 10.00 am | Matins | 10.00 am Parish Communion at Cholesbury | | | | | |
| 25 Aug | Trinity 10 | 10.00 am | Parish Communion | 10.00 am Parish Communion at Hawridge | | | | | |
| 1 Sept | Trinity 11 | 8.00 am 10.00 am | Holy Communion All Age Worship at LCM | 11.00 am | Parish Communion | 9.30 am | BCP Communion | 9.30 am | Family Service |
| 8 Sept | Trinity 12 | 10.00 am | Parish Communion | 10.00 am Morning Worship at Cholesbury | | | | | |
| 15 Sept | Trinity 13 | 10.00 am | Matins | 6.00 pm | Harvest Festival | 10.00 am Parish Communion at Hawridge | | | |
| 22 Sept | Trinity 14 | 10.00 am | Harvest Festival | 9.00 am Breakfast Service at St Leonards | | | | 10.00 am | Parish Communion |
| 29 Sept | Trinity 15 | 10.00 am Parish Communion at The Lee Speaker - Christine Woods from The Salvation Army | | | | | | | |

Please note:

During Rev David Burgess' absence
 Revd Dan Beesley
 Interim Associate Minister
 will be in The Lee and Hilltop Parishes
 on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays
 07590 123603
 revdbeesley@gmail.com

Parish Secretary

Peggy Sear
 07804 697948
p.sear1925@gmail.com
 THE CHURCH OFFICE
churchroom@waitrose.com

**Churchwardens
The Lee**

Trevor Pearce
 01494 837601

 Mike Sherratt
 07597 158269

**Churchwardens (contd.)
Hawridge**

Elizabeth Tomlin
 01494 758214

Cholesbury

John Farmer
 01494 758715
landb.farmer@btopenworld.com

St Leonards

PCC Secretary
 Giles Pemberton
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CHURCH MATTERS

FROM THE REGISTERS

ST LEONARDS

Holy Matrimony

15 June 2019 Sarah Kathryn Lock and Alistair Robert Flowers

22 June 2019 Erika Dos Santos Narane and Matthew James Shapland

ST LEONARDS

There have been two wonderful weddings in our Church so far this summer...



Ian Ogilvie kindly conducted the simple and sincere Ceremony for **Sarah Lock** and **Al Flowers** on Saturday 15 June and almost persuaded the rain clouds to disperse – certainly for the entrance of the Bride. Sarah looked beautiful as she walked down the aisle in a softly draped ivory dress, the bodice overlaid with lace. Her bridesmaids wore light grey off-the-shoulder dresses and her sister a smart grey waistcoat suit. The little flower girls were in light grey and pink dresses with tiny flower petals emerging from within the layers.

A member of the Chiltern Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers rang the bell for Sarah's entry to the Church and for her and Al's departure. It is an ancient bell and hadn't been rung for so long for some time. Its simple, clear sound seemed to set the scene for the entire day.

A fine mist of rain caused a change of plan and the entire congregation returned for the official photos - not easy to manage in our little church, but the results were well worth the slight squash! The Reception was held at the Village Hall and the Wedding Breakfast took the form of an

Indian buffet – reflecting the time Sarah and Al spent in India, where they became engaged. The young couple and their many friends then danced into the night...



Sarah and Al Flowers

The Wedding of **Erika Narane** and **Matthew Shapland** was a truly international affair. Ivor Cornish, who led the service, welcomed guests in Portuguese and even gave part of his blessing at the end of the ceremony in the language understood by most of the guests. No less than twenty different countries were represented that day – all sharing in Erika and Matthew's happiness.

The music was provided by a clavinova, violin and three singers which created a wonderful atmosphere as Erika, looking really lovely in a white silk and organza

dress preceded by two little bridesmaids scattering rose petals as they went, walked down the aisle.

The sky was blue while the official photos were being taken and guests were able to relax sitting on straw bales on the lawn as delicious canapes and cold drinks were served. As their friends began to make their way to the Village Hall, Matthew and Erica slipped out of the little back gate into a field full of wild flowers, crossing three fields and two stiles before joining their guests for the Wedding Breakfast. Erika had discreetly and very quickly changed into white trainers for the journey!

With such a diverse wedding party, there was no table plan and guests were encouraged to sit anywhere and make new friends. Games and music went hand-in-hand among the straw bales afterwards. Erika and Matthew left about 7pm, calling in at St Leonards church to pause for a minute and thank God for his many blessings.



Erika and Matthew Shapland

Breakfast booms! We are much talked about and even emulated and are thrilled that so many of you - of all ages – enjoy to come. A simple, sincere (and often fun!) approach to the Service seems to appeal to a lot of people. We don't meet in August but do look forward to seeing you again on **Sunday 22 September**.

Still a long way ahead but don't forget the **Harvest** at 6pm followed by the **Harvest Supper** on **Sunday 15 September**.

We'd love you to join us for the Tea Parties – We meet again on **Wednesday 28 August** and on **Wednesday 25 September**. Do come along and meet up with old and new friends. We meet about 3pm and it's no problem to collect you and take you home if you're not driving. Life shared over a cup of tea can be very rewarding! Just contact Anne Lake (01296 620169) or Anne Butterworth (758700).

Grass cutting – If there is anyone out there who could help to cut the rough grass in the orchard area by the car park and the area behind and beside the church room, Nick Butterworth (758700) would love to hear from you. It only needs to be cut about four times a year and takes about an hour and a half. Could you help? Or do you know anyone else who could help?



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HAWRIDGE

At the end of June, we welcomed Revd. Dan Beesley to take his first service as Interim Associate Minister. We wish him much success in his ministry with us which he has begun swiftly; he told us he had already twice visited the School. Needless to say, we also continue to pray for David's full recovery and assure David and Penny of our continued support.



other ways. But there is always room for more help.

Speaking of which - preparations for the **Annual Fete, on Bank Holiday Monday 26 August**, have already begun and there is a need for help with running the stalls and various other matters – do please volunteer. The **Harvest Supper** will be in Cholesbury village hall on **6 October**, a jolly (and inexpensive) evening!

CHOLESBURY

We are delighted that Rev. Dan Beesley will be providing clergy cover for the next few months, leading our services and supporting local schools. His first service at Cholesbury will be on Sunday 4th August when we will make him most welcome. This is an interim appointment and we will still need visiting ministers. Once again I thank Alan Davis, Geoffrey Howell and Ian Ogilvy for leading our services over the past two months.



Cream Teas at Cholesbury Village Hall starts at 2pm and goes on till 5pm. This year the drizzle started at 2pm and, yes you guessed, finished at 5 pm! Brigid Farmer and Linda Stacey braved the weather and sold more plants than last year. Sue Fletcher and Roseanne Vince were equally resilient but visitors like to browse Bric-a-Brac and sales were down. Stewart Pearce wisely took his Guess-the-Cake stall inside. In the Village Hall a fine team led by Rosemary Pearce sold teas, scones and cakes to a steady stream of visitors and resultant sales were higher than last year, proving that Cholesbury's good reputation for Cakes overcomes bad weather! Net takings at



Gathering at the Old Bailey

£867 were only £30 below last year.

On 7 June, 53 people from Cholesbury and the surrounding villages joined Liz and Peter Green at the **Old Bailey**. Liz is based at the Old Bailey as Sherriff of the City of London and her prime role is to host Judges sitting in the Central Criminal Court (the correct name for the Old Bailey). Liz most generously arranged a detailed tour starting at 5.30 after the Judges had gone home and allowed us access. We stood in the Court where Dr Crippen and the Kray Twins had been tried.

This was a traditional court, after which we saw a more modern design that enables jurors to better hear the judge. Then we went downstairs to the cells, immediately sensing the grim, windowless, frugal conditions before taking the route used by the Accused to enter the dock. We happily went upstairs and visited the spacious Grand Hall with motifs of Justice and appropriate statues. Liz and Peter were very well versed in the workings of this important building giving us so much information.

Then to Dinner, and we entered the Judges Dining Room with all of us sitting around one long table to dine on guinea fowl and summer pudding. The wine was generous and old friends and comparative strangers exchanged much good conversation before assembling under a portrait of the Queen for a group photo. We are most grateful to Liz and Peter for this wonderful experience that we were

most fortunate to enjoy and for raising £817 for church funds.

The **Fete** will be held as usual on **Bank Holiday Monday 26 August**. It involves a lot of work but if we have a good number of volunteers then the burden is shared. Please book this date and join us at 9am to erect stalls and marquees.

We are also looking for volunteers to staff stalls for our busy Fete. There will be games of skill and luck; raffles and the Grand Draw; stalls offering plants, books, bric-a-brac, ice creams, cakes and gifts. We hope long – standing helpers will be joined by new recruits. Please contact John Farmer on 758715 or jandb.farmer@btinternet.com.

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Late Summer Pub News

Now that we are rid of the pubco devils in our parish, there is not much bad to report, apart from the one pub that has gone into a deep slumber and may never trade again. On the other hand, two idle pubs are due to come to life again in the coming months.

Weekly events that will persist through the summer at the **Full Moon** are Friday Fish Specials with seafood freshly delivered from Cornwall; Sunday lunchtime barbeques (and full summer menu) from 12 to 4pm (weather permitting) and Spanish tapas plus Italian small plates on Thursdays from 6 to 9pm. Fish and Fizz for two is a regular Tuesday event at £26 fixed price.

'Stereo Queen' are coming on 31 August at 7:30pm. They are a live tribute act which has been well received elsewhere. Since demand is expected to be very high, booking in advance is essential as a full house is expected. There will also be a barbeque that evening. The 'Blues Brothers' act will follow on 28 September.

Throughout August and September, weekly events at the **Black Horse Inn** include the successful Vegan Evenings on the second Wednesday of each month; the Pub Quiz every Tuesday and Thirsty Thursday, offering a free bottle of wine with every two adult main dishes. The pub garden will be busy every weekend as long as the weather holds fair. It features Buddy's Bar, a garden grill and weekend specials.

There will be two garden music events in August beginning with four DJs bringing 'Shake Your Booty' on Saturday 3 August from 3 to 10pm. On Bank Holiday Monday 26 August there will be live and acoustic music in the garden from 2 to 5pm.

Depending on the scheduling of building works, the **Old Swan** could well be closed during September. This is in aid of fulfilling the plans for a new rear entrance, a reconfiguration of the bar and restaurant areas as well as several minor improvements which were granted planning permission under application PL/18/4719/FA.

At the end of June, Mandy engaged the contractors she has selected to restore the **White Lion** and expand its trading area. She expects the work to begin about the same time as you receive this issue of *Hilltop News*. Given an estimated time of 27 weeks for completion, that suggests the White Lion would reopen around Valentine's Day in 2020.

The Chiltern District Council Planning Committee put the application (PL/18/4413/FA) to change use of the **Rose and Crown** from trading as a public house to the creation of three new residences and a cycle cafe on its meeting agenda for 18 July. The plans under consideration incorporate two revised drawings with minor variations. The accompanying planning officers' report has recommended conditional approval of the plans.

Bill Ingram

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Pub Lunch Club

The Pub Lunch Club meets at the Full Moon on the second Wednesday of each month. It 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. The Pub Lunch Club 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.

The lunches, comprising main course, dessert, tea or coffee, take place on the second Wednesday of each month and cost £14. The next few lunches are on **14 August, 11 September** and **9 October**. Bookings are made a week in advance by calling the number below.

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The very unnatural history of one local species

This animal which today inhabits the Hilltop Villages was believed to have only arrived in Europe some 70,000 years ago. However, recently published research indicates that this species, a mammal, first arrived in southern Europe from Africa much earlier than previously thought: some 210,000 years ago. At this time these animals faced fierce competition from at least two other closely-related species who, over a period of more than two million years, had themselves out-competed maybe six or more others ancestors.

The first of this dynasty migrated from Africa to Europe, a million years ago. These animals each had to share their prey with another family of top predators: large cats like sabre-toothed tigers and cave lions. The prey of both these adversaries included a wide range of other large mammals, of which the woolly mammoth was the largest and the giant sloth perhaps one of the more hapless sources of food.

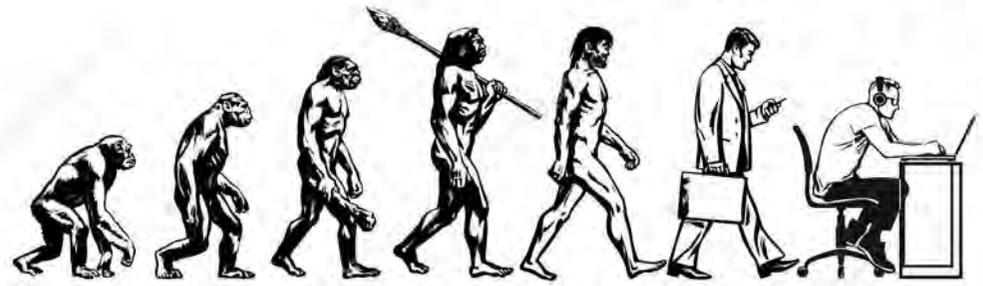
In fact, though these animals ate fresh meat they were more adept than any of the other carnivorous animals at scavenging for food. Their upright stance put them at a distinct advantage over their four-legged competitors. Having an erect stature meant they could see for much greater distances and also, unlike a tiger or lion, could see above the prairie grasses, or spot vultures circling above a fresh carcass. What's more, though not able to run as fast as a lion, with longer legs they had much greater stamina and endurance and could out-pace not just these cats, but pack animals such as hyenas, wolves or jackals over longer distances.

However, it was not just the perils of encountering a savage tiger or lion that this animal had to contend with. Whilst searching and scavenging for food, or avoiding their own death from a surprise attack, this most recent visitor to the

Continent had an even more perilous adversary. Over the 200,000-year European Odyssey this large mammal would have been forced to migrate southwards by several major glaciations advancing from northern Europe, each lasting at least 10,000 years. Between these mini 'Ice Ages' were both temperate periods when small mammals like voles, beavers and rabbits were successful and also tropical inter-glacial eras when hippos wallowed in swamps across the large single landmass stretching from the Atlantic to the Caucasus mountains, including what is now the British Isles which at the time was fully connected to the European continent.

By now I am sure you have realised this is the early history of our own species, Homo sapiens - our human ancestors. Many of our ancestral forebears are rarely given the credit they are due. As Isaac Newton remarked, "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders [sic] of Giants." So, I will acknowledge a few of those 'giants' here. First Homo ergaster, which roamed the continent from 2 million years ago (mya) until 1.2mya. Next Homo erectus emerged before Homo heidelbergensis became the dominant early humans.

At this point two dominant humans emerged. Firstly, perhaps the most well-known of our human relatives, Neanderthal



Man, Homo neandthalencis, moved from Africa some 400,000 years ago and our own species, Homo sapiens, emerged 300,000 years ago in Africa and migrated to Europe a little over 200,000 years ago. So Sapiens and Neanderthals shared the forests and prairies, had been driven south by Ice Ages and ventured north during warmer periods until less than 40,000 years ago when Neanderthals were finally eliminated from Continental Europe.

One of the final safe havens where Neanderthal remains have been found are caves in Gibraltar. Most evolutionary biologists believe several factors caused extinction of the Neanderthals, including parasites and pathogens carried by H. sapiens. Until relatively recently the Neanderthal and Sapiens species were seen to have separate if overlapping histories. With the mapping of the human genome has come the revelation that up to 5% of our individual genetic code comprises gene elements drawn from Neanderthal Man. Not so remarkable given Neanderthal and Sapiens shared territories and may have shared communities.

Between 40-35,000 years ago, a period archaeologists label as the Upper Palaeolithic, or the Late Stone Age, flint tools, 'cave art' and ivory engraving indicates Homo sapiens, so-called Modern Humans, had spread westwards across Europe, but not yet as far as the Atlantic peninsula (the British Isles).

This was not the first time humans had occupied the area we call the British Isles. There is evidence, although limited, of much earlier human occupation in the

Mendips and on the Norfolk coast, dating from 650,000 years ago. But after this, aside from numerous stone axes and flint tools grubbed up, carried and scattered by glacial activity, there is little site-specific evidence of human activity until 250,000 years ago. Evidence of Neanderthals crossing to the nascent British Isles is likewise scant, with isolated discoveries of their activities.

In 2009, further evidence of Neanderthals from 40,000 years ago was dredged up from the now submerged ancient landscape of Doggerland. By this time all surviving Neanderthals had retreated from the Atlantic peninsula. Doggerland was a very fertile landscape, far more so than the British Isles of the time which was joined to the Continent. Archaeologists suggest Doggerland would have been much more densely populated by a succession of our ancient Human ancestors than the British Isles. From 16,000 years ago as ice receded, Doggerland gradually submerged below the newly formed North Sea. By 12,000 years ago, at the end of the last Ice Age, it had all but disappeared.

It is only from around 11,500 years ago, when temperatures rose quickly, that the current inter-glacial period, the Holocene, started and humans returned to the British Isles. Only from then can an unbroken line of Homo sapiens occupation be traced to the present day. During the next 3,000 years there is evidence of a more sophisticated hunter-gatherer lifestyle and, with division of labour, communities of increasing size could develop. Sophisticated craft working, such as stone tools, suggests

there was also some time to pursue leisure activities. Evidence has been found of collective participation, on cave walls with animal painting, of ceremonies to mark the seasons, or the commemoration of relatives' deaths. This was the beginnings of a collective culture and religious practices.

Farming gradually replaced hunter-gathering in Europe. This occurred much later in the British Isles, only arriving around 5,000 years ago, though here hunter-gathering activities persisted for much longer. Agriculture hastened the domestication of animals and house building and caused significant landscape changes. Altogether, this created a more settled lifestyle. However, there was still considerable migration, trading of goods and exchange of ideas with European people. Above all, for the first time in human history, the people of 8,000 years ago were physically identical to us. Furthermore, it is possible to identify some features of our present-day landscape that were carved out by settlers of that era in the Chilterns: for example, quarries mined for chalk and flint. Open land that was once heavily wooded had been felled by stone axes. Some of the tracks and hollow-ways we still use today may date back to this time.

The Chiltern Hills were sculptured from the activities of several glaciations and the ice sheets that enveloped most of Britain. This wiped away most of any possible human occupation. However, there is some evidence of habitation as early as 125,000 years ago, again around 70,000 years ago, and then after 11,000 years ago, during the Mesolithic and Neolithic (Middle and Late Stone Ages), with discoveries of flint mines and burial mounds (barrows).

In this part of the Chilterns there is evidence of copper mining 4,500 years ago. Smelting of tin and copper produced bronze tools and weapons to supplant stone tools and trading and settlement

development increased. Iron began to supplant bronze from 2,400 years ago. Parts of the Chilterns were felled of its trees to provide sheep grazing and arable farming. The influence of iron is best exemplified locally by Cholesbury Camp, chosen for its strategic position high up in the Chilterns with a good supply of fresh water. Though the settlement was abandoned with the arrival of the Romans 2,000 years ago, the dye was cast and it would for longer periods become a place of habitation, until more permanent settlements, manorial commons and farmland were established from around 700 years ago.

Homo sapiens influence on this landscape has continued apace, and 300 years ago the planting and replanting of beech plantations for the wood turning industry established the woodland scene, alongside the open views in all directions as we know today.

The quality of day-to-day living, health and life expectation fell in the 19th century as the local economy and employment collapsed. Victorian enterprise eventually stemmed this crash. In the early 20th century local brickmaking provided scope for both improved employment and for the first time the construction of more permanent and better-quality houses. In contrast to the rapid transformation of the villages in the first part of the 20th century, the next fifty or so years for those living here have seen relatively little changes to the village scene we enjoy today, though employment patterns and social change has been dramatic.

In a world where such rapid change has become the norm, it is perhaps no surprise that local representatives of this very unnatural species known as Homo sapiens would seek to keep the villages and landscape we cherish largely unchanged.

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Botanical illustration

Our local botanical artist, Nicki Tullett, was last featured in Hilltop News eight years ago. I was interested to hear how she has progressed since then and she was pleased to update us...

Well, I'm still plodding round our beautiful countryside, but now with two dogs. I still enjoy painting and drawing wild plants and, if they have medicinal uses, I often choose them for my annual painting for Chelsea Physic Garden Florilegium Society. I am now a Fellow of the Society having had all my offerings accepted for Chelsea Physic Garden's Archives. This involves much more than perhaps people realise as each submission is scrutinised by leading botanists and experts from Kew Gardens and the RHS Lindley Library: so I'm always relieved when a piece of work is accepted. I was Hon. Secretary of the Florilegium for five years, which was great fun but took quite a lot of time away from my painting, so now I'm back to spending more time in the studio".

Opposite is a page from one of Nicki's sketchbooks to show the way she builds a study. "This year I've been working on *Lamium Galeobdolon* (Yellow Archangel/ Yellow Dead Nettle) which has been lovely in the woods this year. I start by doing several studies from plants supplied by Chelsea Physic Garden. This helps me to get to know and understand the plant but, as I'm no botanist, this is a wonderful journey of discovery! I then do watercolour matches – there are so many greens! Scariest of all is dissecting the plant, which I actually hate doing – it seems so wrong to cut something so lovely, but what I learn and see under the microscope is fascinating. Next comes the design of all the bits on the page. It

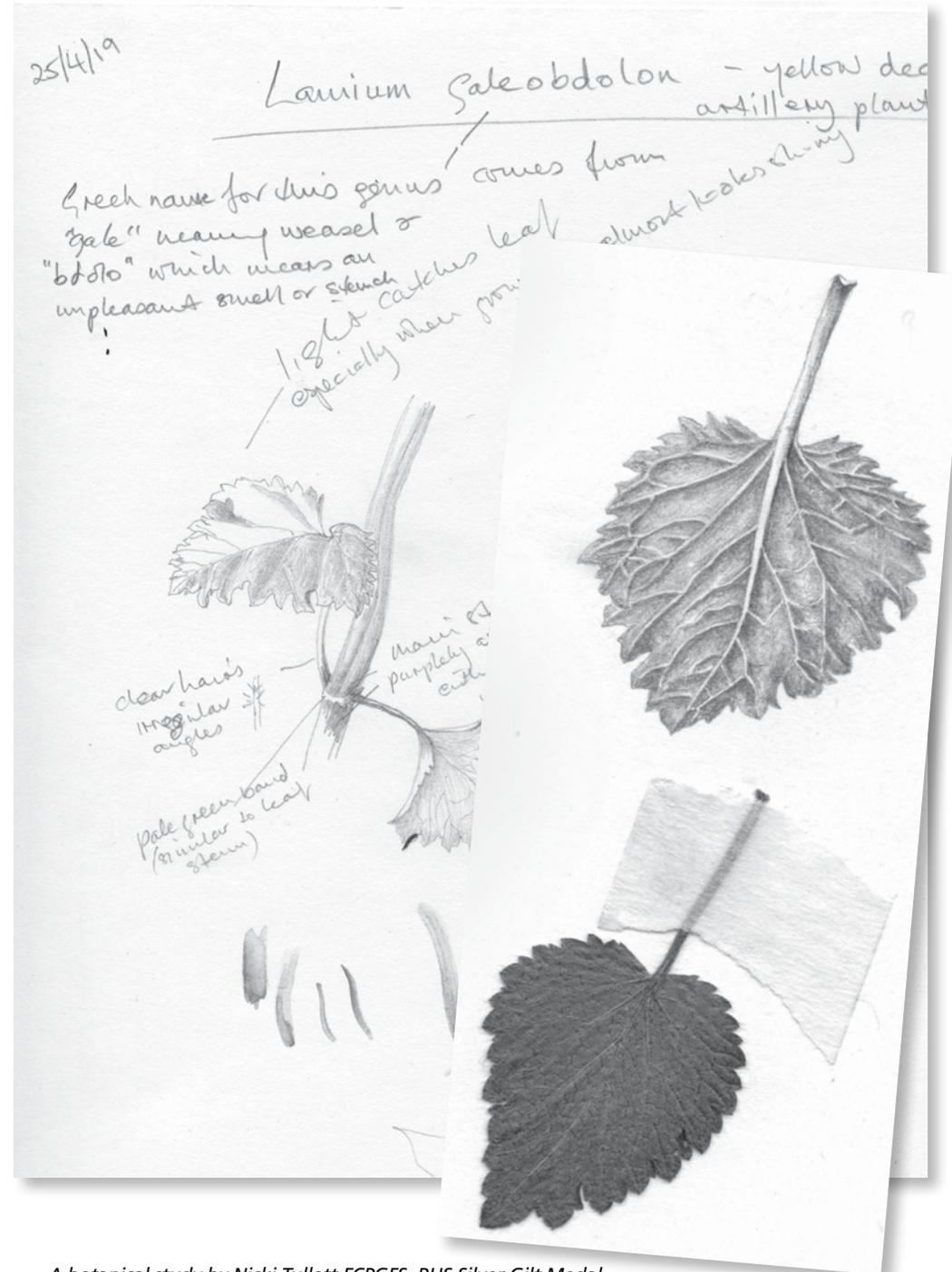


has to look appealing as well as accurate. Then it's a case of making a clear, but light drawing before starting to build thin layers of watercolour paint and working through the 'goodness this is ghastly/I can't do this' stage!"

Last year Nicki was invited to take part in an exhibition in Winchester Cathedral in aid of their restoration fund and at the Royal College of Physicians in London as part of their 500th anniversary celebrations.

Her work is in several private collections including that of Dr Shirley Sherwood, who has her gallery in Kew Gardens and is a leading collector of contemporary botanical art and also in two publications: *Botanical Illustration from Chelsea Physic Garden* by Dr. Andrew Brown and *The Illustrated College Herbal – Plants from the Pharmacopoea Londinensis of 1618* by Jane Knowles, Dr. Henry Oakeley and Gillian Barlow.

Nicki's cards are for sale in the Wigginton Community Shop.



A botanical study by Nicki Tullett FCPGFS, RHS Silver Gilt Medal

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CURVACEOUS COOK



Mushroom Risotto

My lovely Italian neighbour brought me a bag of freshly gathered porcini mushrooms and told me how to cook them for pasta. On the same day we were unexpectedly cooking for two extras, so I made them into a risotto, using her recipe, just adding rice not pasta and we had them as part of a main course antipasto. You can use any mushrooms you like and maybe add a few reconstituted dried porcini if you have them to add real flavour.

*I have discovered that Knorr make a mushroom stockpot that is amazing,
 and that is what I used for the stock.*

*Fresh mushrooms; little chopped onion; little oil; risotto rice; glass of white wine;
 mushroom stock pot; parmesan; parsley.*

Wipe and chop your mushrooms.

Splash a tiny bit of oil into a pan over a medium heat and throw in the mushrooms, with some black pepper and a little chopped onion. I use a flat iron casserole type dish - I think it is called a saute pan!

The mushrooms will throw out some water and as soon as that has dried up, add a splash of water. When that dries up, add a generous glass of white wine and let that evaporate over a medium heat, scraping up any bits on the pan.

Add the washed rice. I use carnaroli, but you can use arborio, or any risotto rice. I handful per person, and an extra one every 4 handfuls is a good guide.

*You now need to add stock gently, letting it almost dry out before adding another slug.
 I make up 1 of the Knorr mushroom stock pots for 4 people.*

At this point I set the timer for the time on the rice packet as a guide.

When the timer goes off, add a little more stock or water if dry, as it should be a bit wet. Taste and season accordingly. Stir in some parmesan cheese and serve sprinkled with parsley.

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Dear Diary

August 2019

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26th Hawridge & Cholesbury Churches Fete – Cholesbury Common – 1.30-4.30pm
28th Tea Party – St Leonards Church Room – 3pm

September 2019

7th Hort Soc Annual Show – H&C School – 2.20pm
11th Pub Lunch Club – Full Moon
15th Harvest Festival & Supper – St Leonards Parish Hall
23rd Parish Council Meeting – St Leonards Parish Hall – 8pm
25th Tea Party – St Leonards Church Room – 3pm
27th MacMillan Coffee Morning – Buckland Common – 11am-1pm

October 2019

4th Local History Group – St Leonards Parish Hall – 8pm
9th Pub Lunch Club – Full Moon

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Hilltop News is entirely non-profit making and is funded by advertising.

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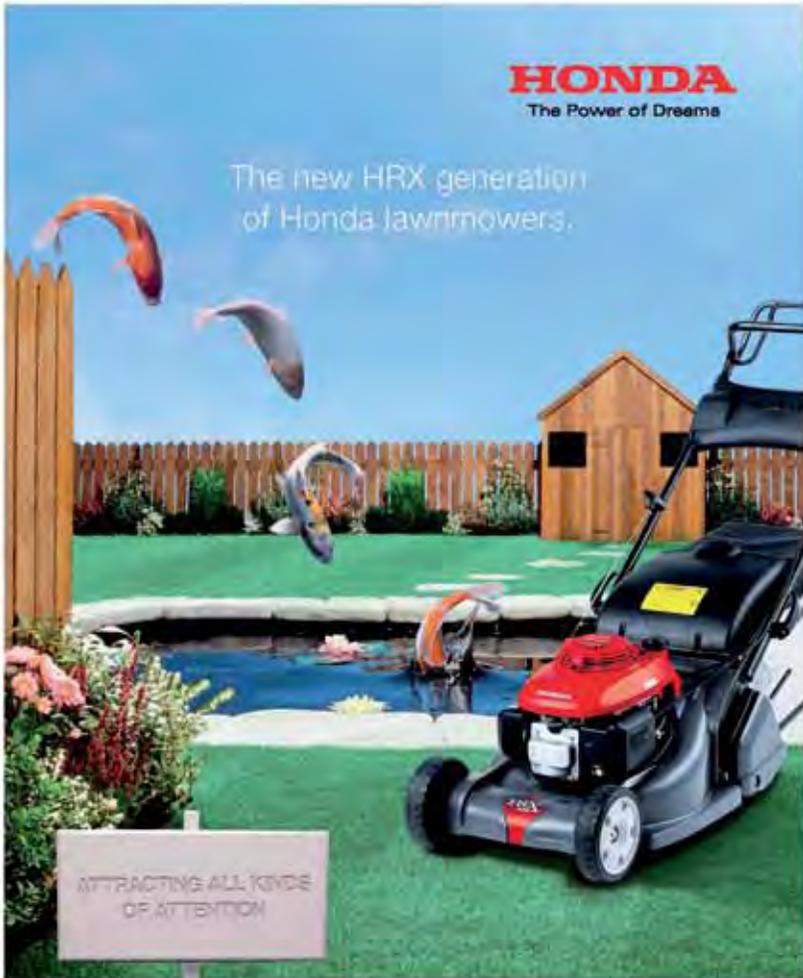
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