

The background of the entire page is a dark blue, snowy night scene. In the foreground, there's a snow-covered field with visible tire tracks. To the right, a two-story house with a snow-covered roof has two windows glowing with a warm yellow light. In the sky, a large, glowing, ethereal figure, possibly a phoenix or a large bird, is depicted with its wings spread wide, emitting a bright white and blue light. The overall atmosphere is serene and magical.

# *Hilltop News*

December 2022 & January 2023



# Attention-seeking scarecrows!

*Passing motorists were puzzled by the sudden appearance of several strange figures scattered about the Hilltop Villages in mid-October...*

The Harvest Festival started with a new idea, the 'scarecrow' competition, and villagers, young and old, took to it with relish. Thanks to all who made such imaginative figures. The intention was to raise awareness of what Harvest is all about: giving thanks for the bountiful countryside and helping those in need.

Together with an auction, raffles and supper, over £1300 was raised at the Harvest, which was shared between our Churches and the Chiltern Foodbank. The feedback from the scarecrow competition has been very encouraging and plans are already in place for the 2023 event!

We now look forward to this festive season. The doors to all our Hilltop Churches will be open, inside warm and welcoming, for Christmas services. Our local pubs will be offering entertainment and a Christmas menu up until Christmas Day, then further festivities from Boxing Day to New Year. Further details of church services and pub openings inside this issue...

*On behalf of the Hilltop News team, all contributors, advertisers and distributors, may you all have a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.*



*Spiderman scarecrow caught in his own web!*

## *In this issue...*

- Sue Colquhoun remembered
- Fine dining in the Chilterns
- Local Park for all to enjoy
- Pop into a dazzling home art gallery
- What next for our Ukrainian guests?

## *Plus, our regular features...*

**Chris Brown** is wary of fungi

Our **Curvaceous Cook** serves up a festive treat

...and full reports from our churches, school, pubs, councils, clubs and societies.

## *Front cover*

*A seasonal scene by Michael Spark*





## THE PARISH COUNCIL

### The Green at Buckland Common

The Parish Council have agreed a revised policy for the maintenance regime of The Green at Buckland Common on a trial basis for one year from October 2022. It will be agreeing a plan with its contractor for regular cuttings to be made during the growing season to keep growth limited to a height suitable as a place for exercise and recreation on the whole of The Green.

### Defibrillator

Recently, the defibrillator located at Cholesbury Village Hall, which is owned by the Parish Council, was recalled by the manufacturer due to possible software issues with that particular model. Currently a temporary replacement defibrillator is in place and this ensures, should the need arise, that there is a defibrillator available at the Hall.

**Please note, in a medical emergency the Ambulance Service must always be called first using 999. If they decide a defibrillator is needed they will advise the caller of the location of the nearest equipment and the code number to open the cabinet housing the defibrillator.**

As the defibrillator owned by the Council is out of warranty and there would be potentially significant high repair costs, the Parish Council is presently investigating purchasing a new defibrillator as a grant may be available from Buckinghamshire Council via the Chesham and Villages Community Board. In the meantime, the temporary replacement unit will remain in place.

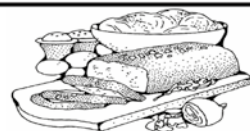
### Coronation of His Majesty King Charles

The date for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles has been confirmed as Saturday 6 May 2023. There will be an additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8 May. The Parish Council encourages local organisations and voluntary groups to

commemorate this important event and would welcome receiving information on possible events including enquiries about the provision of grants to contribute towards funding appropriate events during this extended weekend period. Please get in touch to discuss initial ideas.

### Vacancies on the Parish Council

Are you interested in giving something back to your community? Could you volunteer some time, energy and expertise, to find practical solutions and get things done for your community? Parish councillors represent residents' views and press for improvements to Buckinghamshire Council's services, such as roads, planning decisions and enforcement, refuse collection and protection of our environment. Periodic meetings are also attended with Buckinghamshire Council and The Police, Health and Fire Services and voluntary organisations. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk or come along to the Parish Council meeting.



*Ambrosial....*  
by Annabel

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Annabel Elsdon  
01494 758836  
07542 759614  
ambrosialannabel@gmail.com

### Allotments

The Parish Council manages the allotments at Buckland Common and we currently have several vacant plots. If you would like more details on renting an allotment space, please get in contact with me. The annual rent of £25 is now due from existing tenants.

### Meetings

Parish Council meetings will take place at 6pm on Tuesdays at St Leonard's Parish Hall. The next meeting is...

- Tuesday 24 January 2023

*Please contact me if you have any questions or need to report anything.*

*Parish Clerk, Hayley Farrelly, 07704-909324  
parishclerk.ccsipc@gmail.com*



### Your Parish Councillors are:

Chris Brown (Chairman) -758890  
Bill Ingram (Vice-Chairman) -758258  
Philip Matthews - 758205  
Graham Kersting - 758319  
Oliver Maury – 758015

### Buckinghamshire Councillors:

Patricia Birchley - 07714 704017  
Jane MacBean - 07812 177794  
Mohammad Fayyaz – 0777 202 7829

### Buckinghamshire Council:

Contact number: 0300 131 6000



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## THE COUNTY COUNCIL

*The last two months have seen a period of economic uncertainty and hopefully we can now settle down to a steadier pace of announcements and returning stability. We have seen little engagement by Government with local councils as we start to build our budgets for 23/24. Buckinghamshire continues to deliver on our manifesto, focussing on three key areas: anticipating what the Budget might mean, support for our Ukrainian refugees and the creation of the new Integrated Care Partnership for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire.*



**M**atthew Barber, the Police & Crime Commissioner, reports that there are now 4,772 police officers in Thames Valley, the highest level ever. This is an increase of 500 officers in the last three years. During this time, 11% were recruited from ethnically diverse communities. During the period 1 April to 30 September the force undertook one of its largest and most significant operations, with more than 2500 officers policing the committal service in Windsor for Her Majesty The Queen. Also during this time they attended almost 500 incidents a day and made 15,000 arrests: 30% of these arrests related to domestic violence.

1354 Ukrainian guests have arrived in the County, equating to 620 households. 35 families have moved to private rented accommodation to date and 14 await a

suitable placement. Where possible, we support sponsors to continue to host, enabling children to remain at their schools, stay in the communities where they have established friendships and found work. Chesham & Villages Community Board has worked closely with the Ukrainians living in the Chilterns and the groups supporting them by providing a forum for them to meet regularly, sourcing bicycles, musical instruments, furniture and clothing. The Community Board is keen to hear from local charities and community groups who require funding for future projects. Please contact

Ross.Tackley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

During the heavy rain this autumn we have seen several local roads briefly flooded, but several gulleys have been cleaned out, allowing water to disperse. The gritters will soon be a regular sight and Wayne Fabian, the Local Area Technician, will be out repairing frost-related potholes. Christmas is not far away and can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and successful Christmas and New Year holiday and hope to see you on the Common on Boxing Day.

*Please let me know if I can raise your concerns with officers at County Hall.*

*Cllr Patricia Birchley, Chiltern Ridges Division, Buckinghamshire Council. Patricia.Birchley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk 07714 704017*

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## HAWRIDGE AND CHOLESBURY C OF E SCHOOL



**S**o, I was out riding my bike one Sunday in October when I noticed someone in a high viz tabard clambering over a hedge into someone's garden. Hello, I think, what's going on here? Could be innocent. Could be someone who takes health and safety seriously is cutting their hedge. Could be the world's stupidest burglar. I prepare to say, 'morning' - the polite version of 'oi! What on earth're you up to!?' Then it dawns on me, this person hasn't moved... at all.

Are they hurt? Has performance art finally made it to Buckland Common? Nope, even better than that - it was an entry for the Hilltop Churches' scarecrow competition. And H&C got well involved. For homework, Year 4 designed their own scarecrows (winning first prize for the best group) and Mrs Nash just couldn't resist creating a scarecrow version of Mr Jackson to teach the scarecrow pupils. And the results were there for all to enjoy at the school gates. Love these things that grab your attention and re-engage you with the local environment. Nice work everyone.

In other news, Cherry Platts visited St Albans cathedral, known locally as 'the abbey'. As well as experiencing the awe

that such buildings naturally inspire, Year 5 learnt about how the Vikings invaded Britain, what food Anglo Saxons ate and even made butter in the food workshop - yum. St Albans is a place, right? Turns out, he was also a real dude - Britain's first saint no less. He was introduced to Christianity by the wonderfully named Amphibalus - which translates as 'tiny frog' (maybe) - and was so impressed by it that when the Romans came to arrest Amphibalus for his filthy Christian ways, Alban swapped clothes with him and suffered the harsh Roman penalty that Amphibalus would have. Alban was clearly a brave man. Not sure what the story says about the 'tiny frog', though.

Great Oaks also went on a school trip, and Ophelia and Shreeya from Year 6 wrote about it so beautifully in the school newsletter, that I am just going to submit it verbatim rather than splice it with my nonsense...

*'Our River Chess school trip was really exciting and all of us loved it. We went to two sites, Chesham Moor and Scotsbridge Mill. At Chesham Moor we measured width, depth and the velocity of the river. After that we found lots of old pottery between 100-200 years old and most of them still had patterns on them. At Scotsbridge we also did some measuring and we all found out that the river's velocity was faster than at Chesham Moor. Sadly, there was no pottery, but we did some fishing and found many mysterious creatures including bullhead fish, freshwater shrimp and many more. Most people got really wet but some didn't want to get wet at all! When we got back all of us were so happy to be warm and we all agreed that we had had lots of fun.'*

Rob Scott



## HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY COMMONS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

### Calendars

As I write, the 2023 Hilltop Villages Calendars are being printed at Orbitpress and are again available for £10 each plus £1 for a sturdy envelope for postage. The calendar is a wonderful example of the local community working together for a good cause. Many local photographers continue very generously to send us their lovely photos, giving us a wide variety of subject matter to choose from. Susie Bell continues to design it at no cost to us other than a copy of the calendar, despite having moved away eight years ago, and our sponsors remain loyal year after year.

This is our 11th calendar and, like our cards, we have managed to keep the price the same throughout this time. This is because Orbitpress have only very reluctantly raised our costs this year for, I think, the first time in all the years and our sponsors have raised their sponsorship contribution so that we can still cover our costs and keep the price low. Our thanks to all involved and to each of the following sponsors for making the calendar possible - WE Black, George Brown's, St John's Veterinary Practice, Chiltern Motors, The Full Moon Pub, MT Loos, HG Matthews, Philip Matthews, Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Hort Soc, Chiltern Velo Café,

James Jolliffe, Christmas Tree Farm and Orbitpress.

As you know, sales of the calendar and cards as well as subscriptions provide most of the payment for the routine maintenance of the grassland, paths and rides on the Commons.

### Financial report

This year for the first time in our Society's history we are not having an AGM at this time of the year but have postponed it to the spring when we hope the weather will be better and that you will be keener to come out and join us! However, our financial year continues to run from November to October and our Treasurer, Philip Prettejohn, has just finished his financial report which will now be audited by our Examiner Mike Fletcher before being posted on the website by early January.

Once again, Philip's report shows the generous spirit of the community in caring for the Commons. Despite the enormous hike in the price of fuel, our contractor, James Jolliffe, continues to carry out most of the work on the Commons at cost and initiatives such as Janet's 'Don't Frighten the Horses', sales of fruit cakes, various stalls and so on all help to keep the Commons in good shape.

### Grassland and woodland maintenance

Generally, HCCPS cares for the grassland, rides, paths and ponds whilst Christine takes responsibility for the woodland. For this she takes advice from John Morris (formerly of Chiltern Woodlands) at least twice a year as well as following Forestry Commission guidelines. With the help of Pete Leybourne and his team of contractors a great deal of work has been achieved over the last 12 years. However, the prevalence of Ash dieback on the Commons, as throughout the rest of the country, will undoubtedly mean that the cost of carrying out necessary work to fell affected trees will become outfacing. This is particularly the case when there is a need for the involvement



*The final cut for the year*

of tree climbers or cherry pickers. In a recent message to New Grapevine Christine flagged that this year's work would start in mid-November on Rays Hill and at Braziers End. Other roadside trees are likely to be dealt with later and further felling will take place over the next few years.

Meanwhile, for your own safety, please avoid areas where work is being done. Note that, as the weather deteriorates, we may have fallen trees or branches. Should this happen please contact Highways if a road is blocked.

As a community we will need to consider how we can assist in making the Commons safe whether by donating, becoming members of the Society if you aren't already, running some fund-raising events or perhaps asking for a donation to HCCPS if you are giving away goods on Grapevine.

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## Subscriptions

If you do not pay your subscription by direct debit or PayPal your annual subscriptions are due now. Family membership remains £20 and for an individual £10. It is easy to make payments to HCCPS via our website - [hawridgeandcholesburycommons.org](http://hawridgeandcholesburycommons.org) under HCCPS Membership. Here you can:

- complete a Standing Order form
  - use PayPal without signing up to PayPal.
- Alternatively, you can make a Bank Transfer to Hawridge and Cholesbury Commons Preservation Society: Account Number: 50458015, Sort Code: 20-02-06, Reference: Subs + Payer's name. NB It would be helpful if you send a confirmatory email to [treasurer.hccps@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.hccps@gmail.com)

Cash or Cheques made payable to HCCPS may be sent to Philip Prettejohn, Barncroft, Vale Farm, Hawridge. Chesham HP5 2UG.

## Polecats

Some time ago, when Andrew Jordan rescued and photographed a polecat in the pond he was excavating on his property in Hawridge Vale, a number of others reported possible sightings around the area. We would be interested to hear of any further sightings since a recent Nature Note by Melissa Harrison in The Times stated that 'Increasing numbers of polecats are being reported in parts of the country in which they had previously been declared extinct. Some of the recent records are the result of roadkill which, although unfortunate, allows for close inspection of the animal in order to determine whether it is a 'true' polecat or the result of interbreeding with escaped ferrets. It is clear that this native mammal is slowly re-establishing itself in the UK, a source of great hope.'

## Playful bumblebees

Also widely reported recently were the findings of a group of scientists from Queen Mary University, London, that individual bees repeatedly rolled balls up to 117 times when given the option of going straight to a treat or playing with the balls en route to



*Andrew's polecat being released*

the treat. This behaviour was found to be more common among young male bees than others and 'did not contribute to immediate survival strategies but was intrinsically rewarding. It goes to show more, that despite their little size and tiny brains, they are more than small robotic beings.'

*Who knows what fun the insects are having on our Commons?*

*Lindsay Griffin*



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## LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

*This season's programme  
of talks continues in  
December...*



**Friday 2 December (7.30 for 7.45) Sickness and health in the Amersham area**

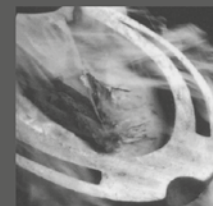
Venue: St Leonards Parish Hall  
Briony Hudson is the newly appointed Director of Amersham Museum and has a particular expertise in medical histories. She will cast a new perspective on health and disease in this part of Buckinghamshire.

**Friday 6 January (7.30 for 7.45) Secret passages and hidden tunnels**

Please note this talk will be delivered by Zoom. For non-members, see info on booking for this talk below.

James Wright is an archaeologist and historian of medieval buildings and everyday life of that period. We are pleased to welcome back James, who gave an excellent presentation last year. By using selected examples this talk lifts the lid on the truths and myths behind the use of surreptitious structures connecting apparently separate buildings.

**James Elliott Dip WCF  
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**Friday 3 February (7.30 for 7.45)**

**The history of Berkhamsted**

Venue: St Leonards Parish Hall.

We are lucky to secure this new talk from Julian Hunt, who is our most regular returning speaker. This talk was given only a few months ago to commemorate the 800th anniversary of St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, and we now have the opportunity to hear about Julian's recent research.

Membership for this year has been reduced to £8 a year to cover the whole programme of talks. Subscriptions can be most easily paid via BACS transfer. Please contact Richard Leat, Treasurer, on 01494 758784 or [leatrj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:leatrj@yahoo.co.uk) for the Local History Group bank details. Visitors are always welcome and the entrance fee is £3 at the door or, for our January Zoom Talk, by contacting Richard, by email / telephone, by the 31 December.

*Chris Brown*



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## CHOLESBURY CUM ST LEONARDS HORT SOC

*Starting to write the winter report for the Hilltop News I am looking out at a very soggy garden now sadly with only a few salvias in bloom and the last dahlias in a jug in front of me. It was amazing how, in September, when we first had some rain after the long hot summer, the flowers suddenly put on a spurt. Michaelmas daisies seemed to grow overnight to put on their autumn display.*

So now is the time to finally clear up the garden before winter. Check the local forecast for signs of frost, but best to move any pot plants into a sheltered spot or into a cold frame or greenhouse. Now most of the leaves are down rake them up and put them on the compost heap. Alternatively put them in black plastic bags stabbing some holes to allow drainage then leave for two or three years to compost down to make compost if mixed with vermiculite. A lengthy process but produces free potting compost.

I like to pot up some containers ready for a Spring display. I bought some well-grown wallflowers and have planted them in quite large pots. As I have done for some time leave a space in the middle to sink a 7" flowerpot with small daffodil bulbs such as Tete-a-Tete. These will be flowering in March and, once over, remove the pot and place in a shady spot.

The bulbs have flowered for many years in those pots and you just need to water occasionally and give a feed of Growmore in August. Tulips can be planted out until Christmas as can summer flowers such as alliums and camassias. Look out for discounts at the Garden Centres. Look up seed catalogues and make lists of what flowers and vegetables you might try to

grow next year. Sweetpeas can be sown early and once germinated grow three to a small pot and plant out when hardened off. Broad beans and garlic are also good to sow to over-winter now.

The Committee have met to plan a programme of events for next year. We have some new ideas for events and the ever-popular coach trip may be again to a RHS garden where members of the Society can get in free for one visit a year and only then have to pay the coach fare. If you would like to open your garden next year for a members visit in aid of charity please get in touch and specify when your garden is at its best.

We hope members will have attended our AGM in November with supper and a fun quiz and look forward to seeing you at events in 2023. If you are new to the village and would like to join the society, please get in touch with our Secretary Diana Garner via

montana@cholesbury.net

*Happy Christmas and a good gardening New Year.*

*Liz Firth*



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### WCS

**Wendover Choral Society are performing Handel's Messiah on 3rd December 2022 at 7.30pm Mary's Church Wendover Tickets available**  
**info@stmaryswendover.or.uk.**

Spring term for Wendover Choral Society begins on Thursday 12th January 2023  
New Singers are always welcome, the ability to read music is not essential but a good ear is helpful. No Auditions. The Spring programme will begin rehearsals of a mixed programme of English Composers, Bob Chilcott, John Rutter and Percy Granger among other pieces along with the celebratory Zadock the Priest.

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## HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CRICKET CLUB



The cricket pitch has been put to bed for the winter season and work, for now, on the square has been completed. We would be grateful if the square boundary could be respected and the square itself not walked on. There are still a few jobs to be done on the ground, covers and in the pavilion and these will be completed over the next month or so.

Whilst we are now into the winter sports side of things, organisation for the next cricket seasons continues. Some colts rules have been changed and the deadline for submission of teams is the beginning of December before fixtures are arranged in the New Year. Bucks Cricket

Board (alongside the ECB) have offered a grant, which we have been awarded, for the training of additional coaches, with courses going on throughout the winter season. If this is something that would interest you, or a 6th former/teenager, with a commitment being offered to the Club, then please contact me.

We are a small club and are always grateful for help. If you would like to get involved in any way, be it playing, scoring, umpiring or generally getting involved with the Club please feel free to contact me directly.

James Morris, Colts Manager  
colts@hawridgecricket.co.uk



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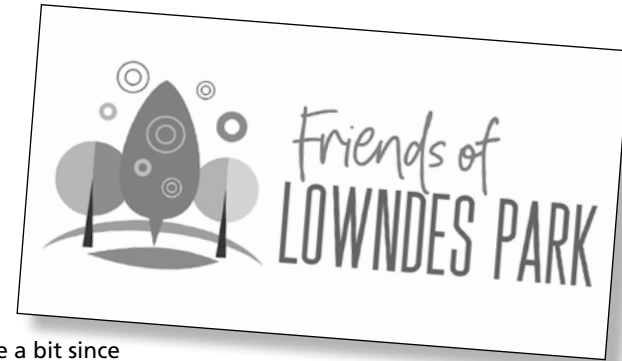
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# Park life on our doorstep



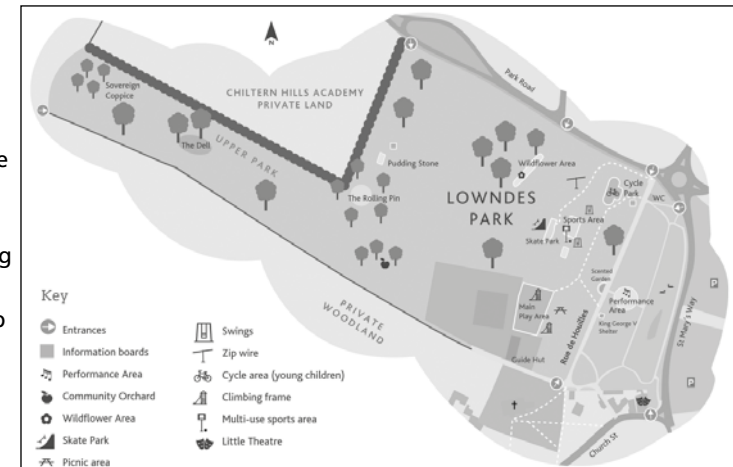
Lowndes Park has changed quite a bit since it was the garden of Bury House and used for grazing. Now it is central to Chesham life as an outdoor space in the centre of town for dog walkers, children, teenagers and picnickers. Whether you live, work, study, or visit Chesham, Lowndes Park is a place for everyone to enjoy.

Formed in 2007, 'Friends of Lowndes Park' aims to ensure the park is well cared for and maintained, realise its full potential, enable and encourage activities and plan a healthy future.

Friends work in partnership with Chesham Town Council in

identifying and applying for funding to care for and improve the park. Past projects have included the performance area, the skatepark and the community orchard. Currently they are looking at the play area and what can be done to help fundraise for refreshed play equipment. The council has conducted a public survey about what users want from the play area.

To find out more about the Friends and the plans for the park and how to be part of this great new project, visit [www.lowndespark.org.uk](http://www.lowndespark.org.uk).



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

*Under the Neighbourhood Watch umbrella, I will be attending a training seminar about becoming part of the home security survey team. In this role I am hoping to be able to offer concerned/interested householders advice about their home security – or at least offer an unbiased opinion on their home safety. I will endeavour to update you in the next edition of Hilltop News on my progress.*



**T**he days are getting shorter and evenings drawing in but just a reminder to remain vigilant. There will always be 'chancers' so remember to lock your doors when you go out and, if you are away, set up timer lights in various rooms. Don't publicise your trip away but just let a couple of reliable friends/neighbours know of your absence and ask them to take in parcels/post/bins. Post photos of trips on social media once you are home rather than while you are away.

With Christmas fast approaching and on-line ordering being more prevalent please make sure you do not advertise your festive purchases by leaving the boxes with their logos out for recycling, advertising what you might have in your home. Take them down to the dump or turn them inside out – remove temptation.

Stay safe –

Erin Thwaites (758079)

## CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS W.I.

**N**ow that the nights have drawn in, what a good time to join the WI ladies for a pleasant evening on the third Monday of each month. On 21 November we had a talk on Locations of Downton Abbey, which particularly interested those who enjoyed the TV series or films.

Next, we shall be celebrating Christmas with the Jolly Jazzers, who many of you will know from their entertainment at St Leonards fete. This will be on **19 December**, 7.30pm at St Leonards Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome. You might even be given a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie!

Hilary Sheppard





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## CHOLESBURY VILLAGE HALL'S CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Twelve Days, Twelve Prizes, Twelve Lucky Winners....

This year's festive fundraiser in aid of Cholesbury Village Hall runs from 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December – giving you the chance to win one of 12 Christmas themed prizes.  
The choice is yours!

A locally grown Christmas tree  
A beautiful handmade Christmas wreath  
A handmade 5ft outdoor topiary holly tree  
A bevy of Christmas bottles  
All you need for a 'Festive Breakfast'  
Proper old-fashioned tea and cake for six - hosted  
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Christmas Crackers and a bottle of whisky

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# Where next for our Ukrainian guests?

*By Christmas, many local Ukrainian guests will have been with their UK families for a little over six months - the agreed time commitment. Whilst some hosts are happy to continue into 2023, many guests are already needing to look for more permanent accommodation. But will they manage it?*

The private rental market is under huge pressure, particularly in our area. Talking the other day with a local estate agent, we discovered that almost every rental on offer is snapped up within days, if not hours, with landlords able to pick and choose from several possible tenants. Using criteria such as a good credit history and an established UK employment record, it is hard for recently arrived Ukrainians to be top of the list.

The poster opposite is part of a campaign by our local support group, in conjunction with Bucks Council, to find 'second wave' hosts to take over while guests continue to improve their English and establish themselves in employment. Unless this happens, a potential crisis is looming. If Ukrainians are unable to secure a second host or find a suitable rental soon, they will be declared homeless and offered only B&B accommodation.

Our community has done a huge amount to welcome Ukrainian families made homeless by a horrific war. If we may add a personal note, Lesley and I are just one of many households who have been moved by the plight of these families and are lucky enough to have the space at home

to help. Our delightful family of three has been with us since June. A couple in their 40s with a young daughter, they have fitted in really well, determined to improve their English and find employment. Their daughter is thoroughly enjoying being at Hawridge and Cholesbury School.

The last few months have been rewarding for us both. We have learned about a different culture and been privileged to support some vulnerable people through the toughest time of their lives. We have also made three very good friends.

All our guests have been through so much - it would be truly tragic for them to be made homeless again. Please consider whether you can offer a Ukrainian family a temporary refuge, either now or after Christmas. Even if it's a 'maybe', don't hesitate to get in touch with us to learn more, either at [ddennis48@outlook.com](mailto:ddennis48@outlook.com) or phone 07494 427355. Many thanks.

*David Dennis and Lesley Paton*



## Could you offer a spare room at home?

### Ukrainian families living in the Chilterns seek new hosts

**Would you like to make a real difference to the lives of our Ukrainian guests? It can be hugely rewarding and sometimes even life changing. Some of the most resilient, brave women and children we've met now require new hosts with a stable, secure home in this local area.**

Six months after the whole process began, you can now **be part of the second wave of hosts covering up to the next 6 months**. Our Ukrainian friends are highly skilled and need just a few more months to further improve their English so they can work and live independently in the UK.

#### **This is how two current hosts describe their experiences:**

*"With the great local support networks we are proud that we have made a difference to one lovely family - giving them renewed hope for the future."*

*"We have been able to cushion the terrible situation facing our Ukrainian guests - and even share some of their joys and achievements."*



To register your initial interest and find out more at a presentation evening, please contact us on 07494 427355 or email [huscchilterns@gmail.com](mailto:huscchilterns@gmail.com)



#### **Consider becoming a host today:**

- Established community of hosts, volunteers and Ukrainian families
- Volunteer drivers to back up public transport
- Organised activities for hosts, volunteers and Ukrainian friends
- Monthly government payment

**It's a unique opportunity to be part of a richly rewarding experience, learn about a great culture, and make new friends.**



# The Chilterns recipe for success

*Once known as the 'larder of London', the Chilterns has always been a fantastic centre for food and drink production. You may have tried a traditional Chilterns speciality. Perhaps a roasted Aylesbury duck? Or maybe a 'clanger'? If you didn't know, that's the suet roly-poly which made a comeback thanks to The Great British Bake Off.*

I've lived in the beautiful Chilterns for most of my life. When I started Wigginton Community Shop in 2016, I learned more about the wonderful local food and drink produced locally. This sparked me to write the Chilterns Recipe Book, featuring more than 60 recipes of the region's best loved independent businesses, from Puddingstone Gin to Rumsey's and Peterley Manor Farm.

Visiting producers in their bakeries, distilleries, fermentaries and farms, I discovered the great care they take over their ingredients and the high quality of the food and drink they make.

The special terrain here also gives our food its wonderful and unique 'terroir', the taste of the locality. Breweries in the area benefit from hard water and high mineral content. The flinty soil is perfect for winemakers, as vines prefer well-drained land. Climate change means our microclimate is much the same as the Champagne region of France. Whilst animals grazing here need to be hardy to cope with the chalky ground, the geology is great for growing fruit and veg.



What I wasn't expecting was how much the book would change the way we eat as a family. We're more aware of the seasons, eating locally if we can, or at the very least, British. There have been low points – a couple of misadventures with swede (my fault, not the vegetables), but overall, the experience has been transformative. The fruit and veg we eat tastes better. It's more nutritious and often cheaper than the out-of-season, over-chilled, plastic-covered food we used to eat from the big supermarkets.

There are many great reasons to eat local: you use fewer food miles, you know the supply chain, there are often better farming practices and you're supporting the local economy. Plus, you'll eat fewer chemicals, preservatives, heavily processed food and sugar.

Please support our outstanding producers and our great local pubs and

restaurants. A small change to our shopping habits makes a huge difference to our local community and wider world.

Rebecca Fleckney

*The Chilterns Recipe Book, written and published by Rebecca Fleckney, is available in hardback now. Find out more via: [chilternsrecipebook.co.uk](http://chilternsrecipebook.co.uk)*

## COFFEE MORNING

On Friday 30 September Shelagh England hosted another MacMillan coffee morning on Buckland Common. Despite the inclement weather many came and enjoyed coffee and cake. A cheque for £425 was sent off the next day. Shelagh would like to thank those who came and were so generous and give special thanks to those who donated bric-a-brac, made cakes and helped on the day.

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## Did You Know?

Before turkey, the traditional Christmas dinner in England was pig's head and mustard – wonder why it never caught on?

1-in-3 men wait until Christmas Eve to do their shopping.

Jingle Bells was the first song ever played in space.

For Christmas to be officially classified as 'white', a single snowflake needs to fall during the 24 hours of 25 December on the rooftop of the Met Office HQ in London.

26 million rolls of sellotape are sold in the UK in the run up to Christmas (6 million of which you can't find where the tape ends!)

According to data analysis from Facebook posts, two weeks before Christmas is the most 'popular' time for couples to break up – probably to avoid buying presents!

If you add up all the gifts mentioned in the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' they total 364: not quite one for every day of the year.

'A Christmas Carol' was written by Charles Dickens in 1843. The term 'Merry Christmas' became widely used thanks to the story.

According to Matalan, 82% of people surveyed own a Christmas jumper (24 to 34-year-olds the most likely to buy one).

Norwegian scientists have decided that Rudolph's red nose is probably the result of a parasitic infection of his respiratory system – strange that's not mentioned in the song!



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## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Travel Impressions

If you need help and advice planning your next holiday, we will be extending our opening hours in January to include every Saturday from 9am-1pm.

Come in for a chat over a coffee!



**Travel Impressions**



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## From Revd. Chris Haywood...



Remembrance Sunday is a very significant day for our community and I was pleased to be able to conduct the Remembrance Service at Cholesbury this year. We also gathered for an Act of Remembrance on Armistice day at the St Leonards war memorial. It was good for us to gather as a Hilltop Community for this occasion and a pleasure to welcome Councillor Jane MacBean, who represented Buckinghamshire Council. The Act of Remembrance was set in the context of a parish communion service. Reflecting on sacrifice as we were it was entirely appropriate to consider Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. Such sacrifice is the cornerstone of the Christian faith and how we understand the sacrifice and service of those who lost their life fighting for freedom and liberty.

Our thoughts now turn to Advent and Christmas. We look forward to welcoming large gatherings to the Christmas services the Churches are hosting and making available to this community. We have spread the services around accordingly, trying to avoid clashes, so congregations can gather at the church which has resonance for them. There will also, of

course, be a Midnight Mass Service and a Christmas Day Communion service, this year both at St Leonards.

A new development is the introduction of a Christingle service at St Mary's, Hawridge on Sunday 4th December at 4pm. Families are most welcome to join us for this charming service, where we will build Christingles with real sweets and then explain their significance - lighting them in the evening gloom to bring light to the darkness.

This is our ultimate hope and expectation, what we long for and eagerly anticipate this Christmas, for light to shine in the dark places of our lives and bring hope and faith to all. It is our Christian hope.

The Sunday after Christmas is New Year's Day. We will gather as a united benefice for a low-key service at 10am in the Old Church at The Lee. Services settle down in January 2023, back into our regular pattern.

We're so looking forward welcoming you and gathering you in anticipation of the Good News of Jesus Christ, which has come to us at Christmas, is still coming to us at Christmas and will come again, which roughly translated means Happy Christmas. *God Bless...*

# THE LEE AND HILLTOPS SERVICE ROTA DECEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023

	Day	St John The Baptist The Lee	St Leonard's St Leonards	St Laurence Cholesbury	St Mary's Hawridge
<b>December 2022</b>					
4th December	Advent 2	8.00 AM BCP Holy Communion 11.00 AM Family Service - Christingle	9.00 AM CW Parish Communion		4.00 PM Christingle
11th December	Advent 3	11.00 AM CW Parish Communion	6pm Carol Service Rev. Chris Haywood	9.30 AM BCP Holy Communion	
18th December	Advent 4	8.00 AM BCP Holy Communion (Old Church) 7.00 PM Carol Service	9.00 AM Breakfast Service with some Carols and a Nativity theme Lay led	5.00 PM Carol Service	11.00 AM CW Parish Communion
21st December	Wednesday				Community Carol Singing at The Full Moon pub
24th December	Christmas Eve	3.00 PM Crib Blessing Service	11.30 PM Midnight Mass		5.30 PM Carol Service
25th December	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	9.00 AM CW Christmas Day Communion	10.30 AM CW Family Christmas Day Communion		
<b>January 2023</b>					
1st January	First after Christmas	10.00 AM United Benefice Communion Service (old Church)			
8th January	Epiphany	11.00 AM CW Parish Communion		9.30 AM BCP Holy Communion	
15th January	2nd of Epiphany	8.00 AM BCP Holy Communion (Old Church)	9.00 AM Breakfast Service Lay led		11.00 AM CW Parish Communion
22nd January	3rd of Epiphany	11.00 AM CW Parish Communion		9.00 AM CW Parish Communion	
29th January	Candlemas		10.00 AM United Benefice Communion		

Vicar and Rector  
**Revd. Chris Haywood**  
 The Vicarage  
 The Lee, Great Missenden  
 HP16 9LZ  
 01494 837566  
[rov.chris@btinternet.com](mailto:rov.chris@btinternet.com)

Churchwarden  
**The Lee**  
 Trevor Pearce  
 01494 837601

Churchwarden  
**St Leonards**  
 Robert Donnell  
 07962 231110  
[stleonardschurchwarden@gmail.com](mailto:stleonardschurchwarden@gmail.com)

Churchwarden  
**Cholesbury**  
 John Farmer  
 01494 758715  
[jandb.farmer@btinternet.com](mailto:jandb.farmer@btinternet.com)

Churchwarden  
**Hawridge**  
 Elizabeth Tomlin  
 07753 817431  
[etomlin626@gmail.com](mailto:etomlin626@gmail.com)



# FROM THE REGISTERS

ST LEONARDS

Burial

21 October 2022 Sandra Felicity Comins

## CHURCH MATTERS

### CHOLESBURY

Sylvia Buchanan finalised the Fete Accounts which always contain late extras and the Fete committee was able to make payments of £3,000 to both Cholesbury and Hawridge Churches. Thank you Sylvia and everyone involved for maintaining our income.



In October, Cholesbury were fortunate to host three guest speakers at our Communion services. On the 9th we welcomed **Rev Kevin Lovell** from Prestwood who is a great 'people person'. Kevin enjoys meeting local people and will often use his bicycle to get round the parish and find people in their home environment. His talk tied in well with Black History month that showed clergy of West Indian origin mixing well in the Diocese.

On 23 October Chris led our Communion and the address was given by **Rev Michelle Fotherby** from Wendover. Bible Sunday this year was on 30 October, so Michelle was giving us an early preview. Michelle's love for the Bible shone through her talk.

Sunday 30 October was a fifth Sunday and Cholesbury was the venue for a four-parish communion when we welcomed friends across the two Benefices. The 30th also became All Saints Day (properly Nov 1st) which gave us the opportunity to sing

rousing hymns. Our speaker was **Rev Chris Bull**, the assistant Archdeacon and he spoke on the Beatitudes that we are all familiar with. They are a rich source of inspiration and a good speaker like Chris can always find new emphasis. The service was rounded off with tea and biscuits and our thanks to Brigid Farmer who maintained Cholesbury's reputation for hospitality.

On 13 November, Cholesbury hosted the annual **Remembrance Day** service for all the Hilltop villages. Preparations had been made earlier and we are grateful to Gill Collins for her well-chosen flower arrangements and extra cleaning. Ben Pamplin, with his Services background, had ensured all the brass was polished for the day. Our porcelain Poppies from the Centenary were displayed.

The Act of Remembrance followed Communion. The names of the Fallen from all villages were read out so keeping the Bond that they will not be forgotten. Wreaths from each parish were laid and we were delighted with two extra



contributions. Cllr MacBean and her husband attended and gave a wreath on behalf of the Council; Bess Harrison and her father Phil presented on behalf of H & C Primary School and five other children were in the congregation. The wreaths were placed on the altar for those wishing to visit privately later in the day. There was a collection of £135 that will be sent to the Royal British Legion.

Following a local resident's party, two magnificent flower arrangements were donated to the church and were put in place after the service.

### HAWRIDGE

The Harvest Festival service for the Hilltops was at

Hawridge this year. The Church had been splendidly decorated and harvest gifts were presented during the service. The gifts were auctioned later that day at the Harvest Supper at St Leonards with the proceeds being shared between Chiltern Foodbank and the Parishes. The form of service used, based on the Common Worship Communion Service, specifically reflected the harvest theme and, while it might not be quite correct to say that the sermon was preached on these words as a text, the Rector played and used the words of the song 'The bare necessities of life' (from Disney's The Jungle Book) as an illustrative theme.

As is its tradition, Hawridge hosted a service (based on the Order for Evening Prayer) on Sunday 30 October for **All Souls**. For this service, the Rector was assisted by Michelle Fotherby, an ordinand (that is, a trainee priest not yet ordained) who is training in Oxford but living in Chesham. It was very good to welcome her to St



Mary's. The service particularly aims to remember and pray for those in the four Parishes who died in the last year and their names were read in commemoration. The names of other departed souls with a close connection to the congregation and parishioners were also read and remembered. Candles were lit in memory.

In addition to parishioners, at this All-Souls service it was fitting again to commemorate the life of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth. The recent completion of a new **hassock** for the Church allowed it to be blessed and dedicated at the end of this service. The photo shows the kneeler in Church, sitting behind those candles lit during the service. Embroidering new hassocks was a project of the WI to mark HM's Diamond Jubilee (hence the 60) and this one was begun and largely worked by Madeline Finlay, although sadly increasing infirmity slowed her progress and ultimately the work was finished by Paddy Thomas. We are grateful to them for a lovely piece of work. It was opportune for it to come to its new home in the Platinum Jubilee year.

Hawridge Church will celebrate Christmas as is its tradition by an early evening **Carol Service** on Christmas Eve and hopes again for a very full church. We also hope (details will be announced if these happen) for some Carol singing in the pub and to organise a Christingle service.

At the end of the year, it is appropriate to say thank you to all who have contributed to the Church in so many and so varied ways – worshipping, reading, cleaning, flowers, admin, Churchyard maintenance, financial contributions and all other acts of support. The Church is grateful.

## ST LEONARDS

We are sad to announce the death

of **David Dowson**

whose funeral was

held at St Leonards church on

Thursday 10 November. He will always be remembered as a great character, an ardent huntsman and a part of the Dowson family who contributed so much to village life over the years.

We celebrated **Harvest** with a packed Church for a family-friendly service led by members of the community. It was a wonderfully relaxed service with a true sense of togetherness. The Hilltops choir sang magnificently in a splendidly decorated church.

The service set us all up for a great night of food and companionship at the Supper. 80 locals aged from 7 to over 70 packed into the Village Hall for a fun night together. The team had put together a lovely meal of Lasagne and salad which was then followed by the famous dessert buffet. The tables were laden with a mouth-watering selection of puddings. One of the children summed it up with his comment "Best puddings ever, I want a bit of every one!" To be honest we all wanted a bit of every pud and a few tried!

Through the night the auctioneers sold off all Harvest decorations and donations. They really worked the room, perhaps exploiting some family rivalries to raise money for the Foodbank. It looks like we made over £1300 with the scarecrows,

auction, raffles and supper. The monies will be shared between the Churches and Chiltern Food bank in Chesham. Thanks to everyone who helped.

On Friday 11th we marked Armistice Day. Chris led a short service of **Remembrance** around the War Memorial for about 20 people.

We are holding a **Breakfast Service** on **Sunday 18 December** – with the Nativity very much in mind. So do join us if you can – it will be a great start to the festivities. We will meet as usual at 9am for Coffee and Bacon Butties - and plenty of pain au chocolat for the children. We will meet again on **Sunday 15 January** for the first Breakfast of the New Year.

**Midnight Mass** is at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

On **Christmas morning** we are holding a **Family Christmas Day Communion Service** at 10.30.

Sadly, we have had to stop the Tea@ Three gatherings on a Wednesday due to dwindling numbers but we do intend to re-start later in the New Year – maybe in a different format. If any of you have any thoughts on this please do contact Anne Butterworth (758700) to share them - and watch this space!



# Baroque bliss amidst Christmas chaos

*Since we first began our journey of bringing live performances to the Chilterns, we made it our mission to keep our programming varied, exciting and informative. There is a vast range of incredible music out there to explore and along with it an equally compelling story behind the composer and the composition that begs to be told.*

I think it's safe to say that all these elements have been present in our concerts so far. We began our musical journey in Scandinavia, showcasing the works of Grieg & Sibelius, followed by an exploration of Haydn's epic 'Seven Last Words' and a Beethoven symphony, before our end-of-season Latin tango fiesta!

So far this season we found an intimate way to celebrate the romantic works of French masters, Franck & Ravel whilst preparing for our most ambitious and off-the-wall project so far that saw us not only perform but also compose a 90-minute musical score to the century-old cult horror classic, Nosferatu. Whilst our audience seems to enjoy the variation in our events, which often take place in unusual settings, we think it's crucial to also have a focal point at the heart of our season that remains untouched. Without question, we felt that our Baroque Christmas concert was the perfect event to fulfil this role. Not only does this period possess the most substantial choice and volume of repertoire, but the sheer beauty and timelessness of this genre should be celebrated.

With this in mind, we are very happy to invite you to our next Christmas concerts! Due to popular demand, this year we will do two performances, one in St. Mary's



Church, Old Amersham on the 16 December and one in St. Mary's Church, Wendover on the 17 December. Our musicians will be performing carefully selected works by Bach, Vivaldi and Albinoni to name a few and there will also be a complimentary glass of sparkling wine to enjoy in the interval!

We very much hope that in years to come, our Christmas concerts will become a festive staple for families in our communities to enjoy in the lead up to the holidays.

For more information about our concerts or to sign up to our mailing list, please visit [www.echormusic.com](http://www.echormusic.com) or get in touch directly at [echor@echormusic.com](mailto:echor@echormusic.com)

*Eva Thorarinsdottir*  
Creative Director of Echor Music

# A foray with fungi

*These days we learn from a young age not to sample unfamiliar fungi from the verge or woodland unless we are in the presence of an expert or have a thorough knowledge of fungi species. For the somewhat more adventurous there are books and, if we are circumspect, official websites to consult to identify which mushrooms or toadstools are safe to consume.*

Before modern-day scientific examination and poisons-testing were developed, knowledge of which fungi were safe to consume was passed on from person to person and generation to generation by word of mouth. How many people must have died or suffered excruciating pain and discomfort for the folklore of both safe and deadly fungi to develop?

Forensic archaeologists have identified prehistoric peoples who periodically relied heavily on fungi as part of their dietary needs. One example comes from around 19,000 years ago of a pre-Mesolithic community from Cantabria, northern Spain, at a time when the UK was still covered by a glacial ice sheet. The well-preserved remains of a 40-year-old woman, who was clearly of high status, revealed traces of fungi from a dental examination of her teeth.

A much later discovery was a mummified Iceman named 'Otzi', dating from 5,300 years ago. He was so named as he was discovered in the Ötztal Alps on the present-day border between Italy and Austria. Alongside his body was found a well-preserved bag containing several mummified fungi. One example found has been identified as birch polypore: a bracket fungus which is still found in the UK. The theory developed by archaeologists is that

this fungus was not used for food but as a medicine in the form of a laxative to expel worms!

Another bracket fungus identified was one with the colloquial name Ice-man Fungus which is again found on Birch and also Beech. It is more commonly known as Tinder fungus as it is known to have been used from this time for fire-lighting, though additional medicinal uses could have included treating cancers, bladder complaints and, intriguingly, even ingrowing toenails.

In ancient Egypt the appearance of mushrooms and toadstools was believed to be connected to the occurrence of lightning. Their association with thunderstorms were seen as being a gift from the god, Set, and those previously determined as edible, including the field mushroom, could only be consumed by the pharaoh. The veneration of such fungi can be confirmed by their appearance as drawings or carvings within burial tombs.

In a similar fashion the ancient Greeks believed mushrooms and toadstools were the result of 'seeds' dispersed by the god Zeus via his thunderbolts. It is clear from Aristotle, who recorded them as 'agarikon', that although not understanding how they appeared, he was the first to classify them as members of the Plant Kingdom. Thus, a scientific explanation to their origin had

been put forward as an alternative theory to their longstanding mythical origin. Beliefs in thunderstorm origins is, in some cultures, still widespread.

Most fungi are hidden underground as a mycelium of thread-like filaments. Mushrooms and toadstools are the means by which fungi distribute their spores, known as fruiting bodies. This widespread interpretation involving storms has led to theories that electrical activity might stimulate or accelerate the development of these fruiting bodies.

Though fungi were revered by the Romans for medical use there was suspicion when considered as a dietary option perhaps because they were well-known to be used as poisons for assassinations. The emperor Claudius, in AD 54, is believed to have been poisoned by his fourth wife Agrippina with a dish of the very poisonous death cap fungus.

Unlike those in eastern Europe who followed Slavic, non-Christian writings this 'Roman-originated' suspicion continued to persist in western Europe, influenced by Christian scholars, who for the next 1,500 years classed fungi as pagan or evil artefacts of the devil. Those not influenced by such writings, including those from poorer rural communities, instead relied on lore about fungi passed down from previous generations and continued to collect and make use of fungi known to be safe, nourishing to eat or of use for medicinal purposes.

Chinese physicians were also confident prescribers of fungi, classifying them by their uses to treat conditions in different parts of the body. In the 1590s a medical publication suggested six fungi which were beneficial as an aid to extending life. Concoctions prepared using these mushrooms were reserved for important people who could afford the exorbitant price. In a notorious case, the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, consumed an elixir and soon after died. It was subsequently

discovered that he had consumed a fungal preparation also containing both mercury and arsenic, which explained why the liquor had the opposite of the intended effect. Emperor Qin is better known as the commissioner of the mausoleum containing the Terracotta Army.

Across Europe, renewed interests in fungi for medicinal and for culinary purposes were rejuvenated in the 1600s. It was greatly accelerated around 1750 when Carl Linnaeus included fungi in his binomial taxonomic classification of all known species. There was an explosion in the interest of collecting all kinds of plants and animals during the Victorian era. This newly kindled breed of hobbyists needed assistance with identification. In turn this led to the publication of illustrated guides for the panoply of plants and animals, including fungi. This passion also encouraged culinary books which often set out which species of fungi were safe to eat with instructions for their proper preparation.

The development of DNA-based taxonomic classification has recently led to a revolution in the placement of fungi. In 2007 it was revealed that, if anything, fungi are marginally more closely related to animals than plants! There remains not one generally accepted classification system of fungi. However current thinking has resolved for the time-being at least that all fungi are to be assigned to a new Kingdom of Fungi which has codified and brought together the diverse groups or phyla of fungi into one classification system.

A word of warning. Having listened to several expert collectors of fungi who have had near misses, having either mis-identified a species or not prepared/cooked the fungi correctly, I am content just to observe in situ rather than collect and consume fungi!

Chris Brown





## Open house for a painting treat

*Former TV presenter, Tony Francis has turned his Hawridge Common cottage into a dazzling art gallery for the winter. He produced such a huge collection of work before and during Covid that the house is bursting with paintings!*

Says Tony, "There's just room to hang them all. They're squeezed into every corner, including the summer house." Visitors are invited to browse among a cornucopia of colourful and highly original paintings. His themes range from Ashridge landscapes to semi-abstract still life, to a series of aboriginal-inspired images which earned him acclaim at the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition the last two years.

"I admire the way aboriginals used earth pigments with their hands to paint visual messages on cave walls. The pictures are full of codes and symbols, just like maps. The colours and patterns are magical."



Tony retired from presenting sport on BBC and ITV and closed his independent TV company, Kingfisher, after 25 years of producing wildlife and countryside programmes. He says the countryside has always been in his blood. "You have to put up with glis glis invading your loft space and muntjacs eating your roses, but I wouldn't change it."

Look out for the sandwich board outside Gateway Cottage and pop in any time you like. It's open house all through the winter.



## Harvest treat...

*It was lovely to see the response to the new 'scarecrow' event at the Harvest Festival. Here are a few more models which caught the attention...*



## Art and Craft Exhibition

By local artists and crafter's

At Cholesbury Village Hall

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
10am - 4 pm

**FREE ADMISSION**

Teas, coffees and refreshments will be available.

Raffle • Paintings • Pottery • Jewellery • Christmas Gifts • Cards

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# Winter pub news

*Whilst the national news has been forecasting dire outcomes for pubs around the country this winter, the two pubs closest to the Hilltop Villages are putting a brave face on the near-term future.*

**T**he Full Moon has plans for a very busy December which will begin with a Christmas menu that needs to be ordered in advance. Since many special events are planned, see the website [www.fullmoonpub.info](http://www.fullmoonpub.info) for details of all the festive season goings on.

On Sunday 4th December, a craft fair will be an opportunity to pick up some handmade gifts, and you could stay for their popular Sunday roasts. The Christmas wreath making workshop will return on Tuesday 6th December. Movie nights are coming on 10th, 17th and 23rd December.



Christmas Eve will feature Karaoke in the marquee, but you can find some peace inside with a meal featuring some Christmas special dishes. Opening on Christmas Day will be from 11-2:30 for drinks only. The traditional Boxing Day breakfast will be followed by outside food service and then sharing platters later in the day.

An all-day breakfast will be available on New Year's Day and the monthly quiz nights and Fish Fridays continue as usual. We are assured that World Cup football will be on the screen throughout the tournament.

**The White Lion** has refreshed its menu for winter, added some seasonal cocktails, and introduced new Mediterranean wines to their lists. They will also be running some Christmas specials for December.

On the colder days, you can count on there being a warming fire on the hearth this winter. Since plans for special events early in the new year are still a work in progress, they will be announced in due course on the pub's web site [www.whitelion.pub](http://www.whitelion.pub) and their Facebook page.

**The Old Swan** is still operating without regular food service but with occasional

weekend visits by food trucks. They will be open for drinks most weekday evenings except Monday and from noon to evening on Saturday and Sunday.

**The Black Horse Inn** also maintains reduced trading hours from noon on Thursday through Sunday. Their website is offering an 'Individual Christmas Grazing Box with a glass of Prosecco' for £15 per person which needs to be booked in advance for the evenings of 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th of December.

*Bill Ingram*

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## THE FULL MOON - EVENTS



**Christmas Menu out from 1st Dec - pre orders only**

**4 Dec** -Mini craft fair - why not book Sunday lunch and pick up some hand made gifts!

**6th Dec** -Christmas Wreath making workshop

**24th Dec** -Karaoke in the Marquee, plus some Christmas specials on the evening menu if you'd like some peace inside

**25th Dec** -**Christmas Day** -Open for drinks only - 11am -12.30pm

**26th Dec** -**Boxing Day** - Breakfast - then pm, outside food sharing platters

**New Years Day**—All day Breakfast

Plus our monthly Quiz Night, Fish Friday and our popular Sunday roasts  
(Booking advised)

see our website [www.fullmoonpub.info](http://www.fullmoonpub.info) 'events' for all the festivities!  
**01494 758959**



# Sue Colquhoun

29 June 1951 -

2 October 2022

*Sue and Duncan moved into May Cottage in September 2021 following Ian and Sue Phillips' decision to move after 13 happy years in Hawridge. Ian was at great pains to assure us that our new neighbours "were really wonderful, delightful people" and, as it turns out, Ian was absolutely spot on!*

Sue and Duncan had moved here from Cottenham in Cambridge to be much closer to their children Dan, Jo and Tom, and their seven grandchildren and the move enabled them to spend so much more time with them all.

Sue and Duncan had immersed themselves into village life with great gusto from the word go. Sue joined the choir and is fondly remembered by her fellow singers. Sue was described by choir master Judy as "having such a positive energy and was really kind and caring. Although she was new to the community, I felt like she had been here for years". I think that is exactly how all her neighbours felt. If there was a village event to attend, a raffle ticket to be bought, a group to join, a cake to be baked, Sue was there offering her immediate support. Duncan and Sue attended every Hawridge gathering they were able to, whether standing about on the Common in the dark, sheltering under a sodden gazebo, or just supping wine with the neighbours it was always with a smile on her face. Walking or cycling to Church services both at Hawridge and St Leonards was not unusual and I often passed Sue when walking on the Commons, a crocodile of children and grandchildren in her wake!

As is so often the case, you get to know more about someone at their funeral than



you ever knew before. And so it was, at a standing-room-only gathering of friends and family in a beautiful woodland setting where we had been urged "as Sue was such a happy and free spirit, to wear colourful clothes" we celebrated Sue's amazing life.

Born in Uganda to Missionaries, Sue spent her early life in Barnet, later studying nursing at Addenbrookes. She and Duncan married in 1976 and, remarkably, having raised their children they decided they would take a gap year of their own, Sue in her early 50s, spending a year in New Zealand as 'Woofers' – working on organic farms in return for their keep.

Without question, Sue's family were the heart of her life and two of her grandchildren, Emily and Jack, described their 'Ouma' as "always being the life of the party". She loved singing, outdoor swimming (before it became fashionable), paddle and body boarding (just last summer she had paddled down the Dordogne with her grandchildren) and walking – at pace! – particularly enjoying the Chiltern hills and woodland – very different from the flat fenland of Cottenham.

She was described over and over as "a

person who always looked for the positive, with courage, with hope and joy in her heart and a smile on her face" and certainly when she told us of her diagnosis, back in May of this year, that was undoubtedly the case. She was incredibly upbeat and open, even taking part in a worldwide drug trial – the first UK resident to do so – meaning weekly day visits to the Churchill in Oxford. Even then she would bake us a cake or a pudding just days after her treatment as she found it 'relaxing' to do so.

My last memory of Sue is of her sitting in a garden chair, her face raised to the sun taking in those late autumn rays of sunshine. She clearly cast her own ray of sunshine over an enormous number of people, none more so than her own family. Our thoughts are with Duncan, Jo, Tom and Dan and all the grandchildren.

Janet Hopkinson

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**November 2022**

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## CURVACEOUS COOK

### Shallot Tartin

*This is a really easy and slightly different tart that is great as an accompaniment or as the star meal. It uses up all those ends of cheese left over from the fancy cheese board we all buy at Christmas and rarely finish, and pastry from the freezer. Best served warm.*

*This is based on a Sarah Raven recipe, and she says you can use onion, but I really think worth getting shallots.*

450g shallots  
175 g any mix of cheese. Soft cheeses especially good.

40 g butter

1-2 tbs olive oil (I use 1)

1 tbs soft brown sugar

Salt and black pepper

500 g puff pastry. I really think it is worth getting the all-butter one.

Oven to 200/6.

Cut cheese into thickish slices.

Add peeled whole shallots to boiling water and cook 5 mins if small, 8 mins if large, and drain.  
Melt butter and oil in ovenproof pan, then sprinkle in the sugar and dissolve gently before adding shallots.

Season well and cook to rich golden caramel.

Remove from heat.

Roll out pastry to just bigger than pan.

Spread cheese over shallots and lay pastry over the top, pressing down slightly round the edge.

Bake for about 25 minutes until risen and golden.

Allow to cool slightly then place big plate over the pan and invert quickly so pastry is underneath.

Serve warm.

**Lulu Stephen: [bellingtonm@hotmail.com](mailto:bellingtonm@hotmail.com)**

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

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