

## **Hawridge & Cholesbury Commons Preservation Society**

### **Newsletter, 2002 August/September**

#### **SUMMER PARTY**

This was a very enjoyable occasion, despite a brief early drop of rain, held again in the delightful garden of Hawridge Court (grateful thanks to Aubrey & Chris Bristow). Many thanks also to the numerous cooks & other assistants in making it all work.

#### **LOTTERY HERITAGE STUDY & SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE VILLAGES**

The text of the Lottery Heritage Study is now complete and we are investigating ways of publishing the document as soon as possible. The Social History is now well underway and we hope that we can produce this in a ring-binder so that as we have further additions these can be easily included.

Contributions so far include personal memoirs from Edward Newmark and the late Molly Taylor; information about Braziers End House and Farm from Ann Knowles-Brown as well as her recollections of the time that her family lived here; notes on Barncroft; Kingston Cottage; Flint Cottage; information from the Local History Group Archive which includes notes on Hawridge Court; Common Ley; Holly Cottage; Bowmore (Botchmore) Farm; Mermaid Cottage; Home Farm; Cholesbury; Fox Barn; High Chimneys. It also includes short biographies of previous residents:- Tiny Berry, Janet Brown, Audrey Ellis, Margareta Scott and Edgar Taylor as well as information about how the parish magazine worked; Miss Edwards' notes on St. Mary's Church, Hawridge; the Full Moon Pub; Horse-riding in the Villages; archival information about the Cricket Club; an article about the Tuesday Club and also the Horticultural Society. We hope that more villagers will contribute so that we can compile a more complete and ongoing record of the people, places and activities here. Please send any contributions to Lindsay Griffin, tel. 758440 or email: [lindsaygriffin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lindsaygriffin@yahoo.co.uk).

#### **EDUCATION PACK**

One of the tasks we undertook when seeking the lottery grant was an educational one. This has split into two parts, the first being a self-guided trail (or trails) using the commons to help people learn more about the natural world, the second being a series of short stories for children. The first of these latter is now available - A Dangerous Adventure with a Blackbird - as a booklet with line illustrations suitable for colouring, showing the importance of young woodlice paying attention to what their parents tell them! (Liz Pitman is the author, Jim Torrance the illustrator.) Copies are available free from Isobel Clark, East Wing, Shire Lane.

#### **FUNGUS WALK**

Clive Carey will lead a walk to explore some of the fungi which grow on the Commons on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> October. Anyone interested in joining the walk should meet opposite the Full Moon at 10am. If the weather should happen to be bad it may be postponed until Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>. Please confirm with Clive if the weather is doubtful. Tel 758 522. If we find enough edible species we hope to cook and eat them at the Cholesbury village hall.

#### **DOGS ON THE COMMON**

Dogs are welcome on the common (they probably cover more miles on it than most of us) but it is important that they should not foul the footpaths, where everyone walks, & the open grassy areas where children play & families picnic. The committee decided not long ago that we did not want to ask for the commons to be included in a list of places where dog-fouling was an offence (like Chesham Park, etc.) but there have been complaints recently about the quantity and location of dog mess. May I ask owners to keep an eye on their dogs for all our benefits.

## HEATHER RETURNS TO A CHILTERN COMMON (a press release, sent to the local papers)

Heather has been saved from extinction on Hawridge and Cholesbury Commons thanks to work by the Hawridge & Cholesbury Commons Preservation Society (HCCPS) supported by a Local Heritage Initiative (LHI) grant. Work is underway to carefully and laboriously clear a metre around a number of small remaining heather clumps to encourage their expansion. Local schoolchildren from Hawridge and Cholesbury school have collected seed from the heather and are propagating it to replant on the Common next year.

Deputy Chairman of HCCPS Fletcher Nicholson said "Heather is rare on the Chiltern Commons so we are excited to have found it at Hawridge. However, the encroachment of bracken and scrub was threatening its survival. We are delighted that the LHI grant is enabling us to restore the heather and other key features of the Commons, for the benefit of the local community, visitors and future generations."

## CHAIN-SAW COURSE

This is now planned for October; Mike Wallis is fixing a date. Please will those wanting to participate contact Mike direct, on 758172.

WEBSITE: [cholesbury.com/hccps](http://cholesbury.com/hccps)

A reminder of the village website, some of whose pages are devoted to the Commons Preservation Society. These are being maintained & gradually developed over the next few months to include more information about the Society, the Commons and the activities of the Society. This is the place to look to find out:

- the rules of the society

- when the Summer Party is to be held and where to get tickets from

- how to contact the society

- when to pay your membership subs and how

- recent newsletters

- what the management plan & annual programme of work look like (a summary)

- stories for young children

- when the working parties are on, where they are meeting and what work is planned. Any last minute changes will be displayed here. The timing of the working parties is included on the page "What's On".

- what offers of help are needed, eg tractor mowing, strimming, heather measuring, pond clearing

You can also send comments and questions to the Committee via the website. The address to send emails to is: [hccps@cholesbury.com](mailto:hccps@cholesbury.com).

Please use this site, and send any ideas you have for other things you would like to see on it to the above address.

## AGM

This is planned for Tuesday December 3rd, at 8pm, at Cholesbury village hall; it will be confirmed nearer the date.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you are unsure whether you have paid this year's subscription of £5 per head, the treasurer Mike Fletcher (758 419) will be happy to check for you. The year runs from Nov. 1st to Oct. 31st.

## SUMMARY OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE COMMONS

This follows, as the next two pages. I hope it helps explain some of what we are trying to do.

David Barnard, Chairman