

A photograph of a forest path covered in fallen autumn leaves, with tall trees lining the path. The path is a narrow, winding trail that leads into the distance. The ground is covered in a thick layer of orange and brown leaves. The trees are tall and thin, with bare branches. The lighting is soft and warm, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

Hilltop News

October & November 2009



Watch your speed!

New speed limit signs in the villages, particularly the large '40' roundels painted down the narrow lanes, have certainly provoked strong feelings amongst many residents. In this Hilltop News we include some of your views. David Clarke, on behalf of the Parish Council, also provides a helpful review of the long-running traffic management project which led to the new road signs.

Bank Holiday celebrations! Briefly the wind and rain, which blighted many an event throughout the country this summer, relented to allow the **Hawridge & Cholesbury Churches Fete** on August Bank Holiday Monday, to enjoy warm sunny weather. As always, it was well supported and a healthy fund was raised for the two churches.

The **70th Horticultural Society Annual Show** the preceding Saturday displayed a remarkable variety and quality of flowers, fruit and vegetables; arts and crafts and cookery.

Full reports of these events are featured in this Hilltop News.

IAN CRIPPEN
Hilltop News is saddened to report the untimely death of Ian Crippen. A friendly, gentle man, Ian will perhaps best be known throughout the villages as an exceptional horseman. A full appreciation of Ian's life is featured inside.



In our regular feature, Chris Brown treads carefully in respect of the common house spider and looks at other natural features of the autumn months.

Plus, in this issue, all the news from our Churches, Clubs, Councils and Societies.

Front Cover Photo
The dry moat surrounding Cholesbury's Iron Age hill-fort gathers autumn leaves from the towering beeches

THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Central Chilterns Traffic Management Project (CCTMP)

The Parish Council has been closely following and influencing this County Council project which has been running for more than ten years and I thought it would be interesting to review progress to date.

1999 – A CCTMP phase1 report recommended public consultations, village based exhibitions, dialogue with local people and issue of newsletters to stimulate debate and keep the public advised of progress. Phase 2 commenced.

2001 – Meetings held with local councillors and amenity groups, general leaflet issued and meetings with Parish Councils.

2002 - Newsletter sent to 2500 addresses in Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards, Chartridge and The Lee.

“Have your say” days held in village halls to address perceived problems, village entry features, proposed speed limits, style of directional signage and quiet lane signing.

Report issued on response to these events. The greatest concern was speeding traffic and road safety; many residents felt that poor quality of roads was a major contributory factor. Residents responded positively to proposals for quiet lanes, natural feature management, traffic calming measures, surface treatments and village entry treatments.

A Newsletter was issued in Autumn 2002 summarising the responses and saying that seven sample directional signs had been installed for comment.

2003 - Quiet lanes workshop held in St Leonards Parish Hall.

2004 - Many debates about design of the quiet lane sign. Public consultation on speed limit proposals. Introduction of Speed Indicating Device (SID). Directional signs installed, some incorrect and unnecessarily

large. Pallet-shaped village entry sign installed in Cholesbury: to be demolished shortly afterwards by a passing van.

2005 – Proposed speed limits applied. Parish Council requests further changes to directional signs and speed limits. Revised sample village entry sign erected on Cholesbury Common.

2006-2008 - Discussions took place.

2009 - Revised speed limits applied. We are promised new village entry signs and replacement directional signs “shortly”.

One of the problems with the initial speed limit system was that the 40mph limits (we wanted 30mph) were not acceptable in minor roads. As a result, motorists were confronted by a de-restriction sign as they entered Little Twye or Parrotts Lane. To avoid this problem the limits were amended to cover some minor roads. The downside of this action was that 40mph roundels had to be placed on the road surface. The alternative would have been repeater signs at regular intervals.

As you can imagine, the amount of debate and paperwork over a ten year period has been enormous. The Parish Council will continue to press for further improvements but it can be a very frustrating task.

Please come to Parish Council meetings to have your say and keep up to date. Alternatively look at Council minutes on the Parish website and notice boards. We meet on the 4th Monday of every month except August and December.

David Clarke, Clerk to the Council 758567

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It's the limit!

Thank you to those villagers who bothered to air their views on The Grapevine and in letters to Hilltop News about the latest speed limit signs. The following represents the majority feeling...

“ Sadly they have been planned by someone who has no common sense! I live in Parrotts Lane and we have had 40mph liberally graffitied across and along the road. I defy anybody to drive safely at 40mph along a single track road with many blind corners - even if it was a one-way road! It is ridiculous, especially as there are many other users, including my young children, along with walkers, cyclists, cats, dogs and horse riders. The lane goes through the centre of the village and the new signs simply encourage people to assume they can safely drive at 40mph and this only increases the chance of an accident.

A few years ago we had the Council actually representing the residents and

trying to listen to their views by the ‘Quiet Lanes’ initiative and consultation meetings. We sadly heard no more, until the furor over the installation of the national speed limit signs along all the small back roads. You would have thought that the villagers venomous backlash they received from that costly stupidity would have encouraged them to talk to residents, rather than going ahead with another waste of our taxes.

I have to say that I am appalled by our council and will want a full explanation as to why this has happened (and I don’t want the same lame excuse that I was given over the national speed limit signs - “we were only following DoT regulations”) “

Richard Hurd

“ I am sure that everyone will feel safer now that the speed limit in Parrotts Lane and other major highways in the villages has been reduced from 60mph to 40mph, and accordingly clearly marked with Speed Limit Roundels each measuring 4.3 metres long, in accordance with DfT Traffic Signs Manual, Chapter 5 Road Markings, Paragraphs 21.4 to 21.6 Traffic Calming, and drawing No. P 1065, which you can see at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tss/workingdrawings/roadmarkingsp1000series/p1065speedlimit3sheets.pdf> It appears that there could be an alternative of ‘unstretched roundels’ that measure 1.5 metres overall “

Oliver Parsons (ps Spellcheck suggested ‘daft’ instead of ‘DfT’)

Many villagers questioned why we need both road-side signs and signs on the road: one or other would have been sufficient. Others thought the money spent on the painted signs could be better spent filling up the many pot holes.

I sure we have not heard the last of this matter. Any further comment on the speed limit signs, or any other topic, is always welcome in Hilltop News – ed.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The first of the new season of Local History Group meetings takes place on **Friday 2 October**, 8 for 8:15pm at Cholesbury Village Hall.



Our speaker is Bert Hosier whose talk is enticingly called **Hedgehog's Northchurch** - a title which for most of us is as inscrutable as the village and its history. Hopefully by the end of the evening we will be better informed, and like the eponymous mammal we can go contentedly into hibernation... but only, of course, until our next meeting.

On **Friday 6 November**, 8 for 8:15pm at St Leonards Parish Hall, we welcome back one of our regular speakers, **Clive Foxell**, who always provides an entertaining evening. Anyone who has commuted regularly all of the 4 miles from our nearest tube station to Little Chalfont may count themselves experienced in the vagaries of this train. However, Clive is the renowned expert who can take us on a similar journey that is **120 years of the Chesham Shuttle**, at a time when, after all these years, the shuttle will soon give way to a modernised through service all the way to the metropolis.

A change of tack for our meeting on **Friday 4 December**, 8 for 8:15pm at St Leonards, when we will be incarcerated for an hour or so, at the Local History Group's pleasure, to hear **Paul Chamberlain** rehabilitate his captive audience with a talk entitled **Bone, Straw and Paper**. This will entertain us with the story of the prisoners of war of many nationalities brought to England during the Napoleonic Wars and how they were kept occupied.

Look out for the yellow roadside notices and posters on notice boards to remind you a meeting is imminent!

With eight evening meetings, normally on the first Friday of the Month, plus a newsletter, other member events and facilities which guarantees to offer something of interest for everyone, £8 a year is great value. If you are new to the area or just haven't got round to coming along before now, why not come to a meeting - non-members are always welcome for just £3 on the night. For further information please contact Chris Brown or email us on localhistorygroup@cholesbury.com

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THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Not as long as I can remember have we had such a lack-lustre summer. Expectations of better weather in August failed to materialise and our week in Cornwall was met with heavy seas and driving rain. Visits to the beach were limited to a couple of days, however in true British spirit, we purchased wet suits and made the most of it!



Our roads are beginning to see a marked improvement, however final adjustments to Area 2 speed limits have provoked criticism. Legislation has produced superfluous signage which at times makes no sense at all. Chambers Green lane is much better, improvements have been carried out in The Vale and work remains to be done in Oak Lane in the autumn. I encountered fly-tipping in Arrewig Lane which was quickly cleared and repairs have been carried out there also.

Did you know that the South East produces 15% of the UK's GDP and contributes 16% of total tax revenues? People living in the SE contributed £17 billion in taxes in 2006/7, more than any other region. The SE pays more in tax (16%) but benefits from less public spending (12%) than can be explained by either its share of GDP (15%) or population (14%). A recent report says that investing in the South East is the most effective use of limited UK resources, as it increases both GDP and tax revenues to the largest extent, which provides more money to support public spending elsewhere in the UK! This is according to the Oxford Economics report. Whichever government takes over next year, public spending will be reined in and County Hall is currently looking at how to maintain our services in light of the predicted budget cuts ahead.

The announcement on the award of contract for the W2E (Waste to Energy) plant will have been made by the time our Newsletter goes to press and I hope local residents will be pleased with the outcome. Planning permission will still be a huge issue as will transfer stations and transportation to the site, although fortunately not an issue for residents in the Hilltop villages.

Once again our youngsters had cause for delight at their A level and GCSE marks and I congratulate them and all the schools which achieved such outstanding results.

Finally may I congratulate everyone who entered their produce at the Horticultural show on 29 August. Once again the school was filled with the most talented exhibits and afforded a great deal of pleasure.

I look forward to seeing you out and about in the coming weeks and raising your concerns with officers at County Hall.

Tricia Birchley 01296 621138

Lee Patrick
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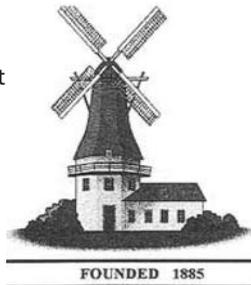
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A CREDITABLE SEASON

Hawridge & Cholesbury Cricket Club's Saturday 1st XI finished a creditable fourth position in their first appearance in the Chilterns League First Division. At about the time England were securing the Ashes we were third in the table, well poised for a final push for the Championship. But August holiday commitments of several players put paid to that dream.

A full report on the cricket season, plus plans for our 125th anniversary celebrations next year, will appear in the next Hilltop News.

Graham Lincoln, Secretary, Hawridge & Cholesbury Cricket Club. 758449



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IAN CHARLES CRIPPEN

22 November 1949 - 15 August 2009



Ian was born in Wrexham 59 years ago but did not live there for very long. His parents seemed to have a wanderlust, living in Australia from the time he was seven until he was fifteen. When he came back he was totally at odds with the school system after changing schools thirteen times in eight years. His parents were un-horsey but at the age of sixteen Ian went to stay with his uncle; was introduced to horses and knew immediately that this was the life for him. He had found his vocation. While a series of jobs in different places taught him his craft, he learnt to ride on the backs of unbroken three year olds; under orders to "stay there and sit it out" until they stopped bucking – which is where he learnt his stick-ability.

I met Ian in 1977 through Moira Bishop, when he was living in a caravan at Mavis Brazil's. He had several horses there but had to fit them round his job cleaning and collecting old bricks for John Beeby. Moira suggested I had a lesson with Ian as I had a very tricky horse at the time – it even managed to have Ian off several times later

- but I know she actually was doing a bit of matchmaking, and I thank her for that.

It was at our first yard in Tring that Ian started getting his reputation for breaking and dealing with difficult horses. Eventually we moved to Buckland Common and, in a dream come true, now had the horses at home. Then nineteen years ago we moved to our present site where we had space to improve and enlarge the business. For eighteen years we ran the Asheridge Show between us and then our own little Wednesday evening show which was enormous fun. It was here that we watched not just our own children but many local children growing up riding all sorts of different ponies "just to see what might happen" – which it invariably did!

There are very few people in the world of whom no-one can find anything bad to say; I think Ian is one of them.

He was a kind and unbelievably patient loving man from whom both horses and people derived total confidence. Witness the number of people who over the years brought their horses to the yard and within 24 hours were saying "I can't believe how relaxed my horse seems" and the people he taught who, after his few words, found themselves jumping a foot higher than they had ever dared before and then invariably went on finally to jump clear rounds.

If ever there was a horse whisperer, it was Ian. He had a complete understanding of the animal. There was never one that wouldn't load, go down the road, or jump, that stayed that way for long. He just quietly asked, not expecting a problem, and the horse felt his confidence and did his bidding.

He taught at the Pony Club for many years until he became frustrated by the demands of the health and safety brigade. Memorably on one occasion, when Simon was small, he took on the whole camp in a Postman Pat competition – and got dumped in a water trough after he won, much to Simon's great anguish!



Ian was also a great bodger and could mend anything after a little thought, from the electric central heating boiler to fences, stables and lorries - which have all been held together in interesting and innovative ways over the years.

He had a tremendous bond with James, Simon, John and Matthew; and although he didn't see much of Jimmy there was a real connection. He imparted much of his knowledge to our three younger sons and they have all developed into true horsemen, each in their own way with an innate understanding of the beast. He was immensely proud of his boys – much more, probably, than either they realised or that he told them - but he truly believed that they are as good as any other rider.

Ian loved his life and always said, "There can't be many folk who've loved to get up every morning for forty years and go to work", despite the money shortages and frustrations of the sport he so loved.

They say that the good die young, and young and fit he intended to stay, still working and riding every day until the awful disease got hold of him. But I think it will be a while before the quiet man with that great dry sense of humour – which never seemed to upset anyone – will be forgotten; and there will be some who will never stop loving him.

This was the address given by Revd David Burgess at Ian's funeral – spoken by him but as David said 'very much coming from Karen' and the following, written by David Brockett, recognises the esteem with which Ian was held in the horse world...

'Those people who knew Ian Crippen will be sad to hear that after a short battle with cancer, Ian died on 15 August. Those who had not met Ian have missed the opportunity to know a really nice, friendly and gentle man. As a horseman, Ian was second to none. From the age of sixteen he partnered many horses – some very difficult others more obliging. One of the best known was Flash (Brooklyn Bridge) whom Ian rode at the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley. He trained Point to Pointers with great success and had trained many young horses before the phrase 'horse whisperer' was coined. Ian was firm but patient; unflappable with young horses and riders which gave them great confidence to go on and compete successfully in all fields'.

Karen and the family have received enormous support not only from the many people who attended the funeral but also from the wonderful cards and letters which are still arriving at Ashotts. They are all so grateful.

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS W.I.

The next meeting is on **Monday 19 October** and will be the Annual Meeting. Don't forget to bring along a contribution for the competition, which is 'Savouries to Share'.

In the following month Tony Eaton is coming back once more, this time to talk about the cover-up of the arrival of Rudolf Hess in Scotland in 1941. Anyone is welcome to come to this meeting on **Monday 16 November** - we start at 8pm in St Leonards Parish Hall.

Please contact Carol Henry on 758435 if you need more information.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Police advise that there has been a sharp increase in pedal cycle thefts throughout the Chiltern district. Although some bikes were secured with a chain, a number had been left unsecured in gardens, sheds or garages. Make a note of the make and serial number and keep your bike in a safe place. Always make sure cycles are kept secured with a good padlock and chain when not in use, even when locked away in a shed or garage. Consider marking your bike with your post code and house number.

If you ever see anyone acting suspiciously, please call the police on **0845 8 505 505** and dial **999** if immediate attention is required. Alternatively, if you do not wish to give your details, remember you can call Crimestoppers, anonymously, on **0800 555 111**.

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HAWRIDGE AND CHOLESBURY COMMONS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Butterfly Walk

Once again, we are very grateful to David Dennis, who led a walk on the Commons on Sunday 12 July to help us identify butterflies. It was very well attended and everyone appreciated the interesting afternoon – below is his account of our rather variable weather this summer, I have noticed that it has been a wonderful year for butterflies, almost as good as the years when I first came to the village thirty years ago.

The weather in this country often keeps us guessing until the last moment. So it was for this year's butterfly walk on the Commons. At midday on Saturday, I was thinking of calling it all off as the predicted overnight rain was due to give way merely to miserable clouds and strong winds.

However, shortly afterwards the forecasters relented and grudgingly admitted that it might be quite warm, with some sunshine, but that showers were still possible.

So we went ahead and luckily it was the right decision. About 15 walkers arrived, some with butterfly identification charts in hand from previous years, which was good to see. I make it a rule that we should always try to see at least as many species as there are people present. Now that's quite a tall order, when the complete British list only consists of 58 butterfly species, at any time of year and throughout the whole of the UK....we were setting out to see 15 in two hours on one Common!

In our favour was the excellent way



in which the Commons are managed for many purposes, including wildlife. There is grassland, woodland and some excellent protected rides with a wide variety of flowers and this helps a lot.

Almost before we had started we were looking at three species of 'browns' – the Meadow Brown, the Ringlet, and the confusingly named Marbled White (which technically is a 'brown' – don't go there!). We had just about sorted these out when we had to distinguish between the Small Skipper and the Essex Skipper. This involves getting down on your hands and knees to look at the underneath of the ends of the antennae. Orange/brown equals Small Skipper, jet black equals Essex Skipper – except that by then it has normally flown away! Being a bit of a purist, I wasn't happy until I'd found that both were there and then we found a rather tired looking Large

Skipper, near the end of its flight season now, so at least we had seen 6 species – over a third of the way there.

The next 'brown' to appear was the Gatekeeper. Unlike the others, this species had just emerged and we had lovely views of both males and females in pristine condition – bright orange and brown – really wonderful.

Shortly afterwards we saw the first of the traditional 'garden' butterflies – a Comma. These are having a particularly good year on the Commons and several more appeared as the walk continued. This was followed by a couple of Small Tortoiseshells, a Speckled Wood and a Red Admiral – always a delight with its red and white markings standing out against otherwise velvety-black wings.

Throughout the walk we were dive-bombed by various white butterflies, eventually identified as the Small, Large and Green-veined Whites – an easy way to chalk up another three species. With most of the common species seen we were into trickier waters, but Linden helped by pointing out a Small Copper that I had walked straight past without noticing!

The assembled company was probably rather surprised, and amused, when I suddenly ran up a hill shouting 'what was that?!' I had seen a silhouette high up in the trees that was small and fast-flying and that normally means 'Hairstreak'. The only member of this family that we regularly see on the Commons is the Purple Hairstreak, which spends most of its time high up in oak trees. Because of this behaviour, most people never see it, although it is one of the most common UK butterflies. Not only did we see several high up, but one female came down, settled on a head-height oak leaf and opened its wings to show the wonderful pattern of black and purple which makes this insect so special.

Mathematicians amongst you will have calculated that this makes a total of 16 species - one more than the required

amount! I have, as yet, made no mention of the rather alarming swarm of bees seen high up in an ash tree and the spectacular view that we had of a buzzard, flying low above us, its wings catching the sun. All this clearly needed celebrating, so a few hardy souls repaired to the Full Moon, where there were, sadly, not enough types of beer to match our butterfly total, but hey, life's like that. The various brews we did sample, more than lived up to expectations - as usual. Thank you Peter and Annie!

David Dennis

Grass cutting

Many thanks are due to Jeff Bell who has cut the paths on the Cholesbury side of Horseblock. Isobel and Stephen Cheeld have done the cutting at the Hawridge end of the Common. In addition, I would like to thank David Collet, who has recently trained as a volunteer tractor driver and Nigel Blomfield who tidied up the grassy triangle at the beginning of Parrotts Lane during the summer. The Committee is extremely grateful for all this voluntary help. Now we have some fairly dry weather, Duncan will be able to cut and collect on the larger grass areas where we are encouraging the colonisation of acid-loving plants and grasses.

Hemel Hempstead Conservation Volunteers

On one of the few warm days in August, the Hemel Hempstead Conservation Volunteers, led by Vicky Duxbury, came to help with management of the first heather regeneration area which was seeded from local plants a while ago. We have been very excited to see many tiny heather seedlings emerging, as well as second year plants, which are now flowering. Until the heather becomes larger, the re-emerging bracken needs to be weakened still further and seedling gorse, oak and birch plants rooted out. The Volunteers also removed emergent

bracken, gorse and brambles from the new heather area to the west of Horseblock. Although there are established stands of heather here, I do not expect to see any new germination until next year, as we only scattered the seed this spring.

Vicky brought only three volunteers with her, but I was impressed by what they achieved in one day. They were also joined for the whole day by Windsor Thomas and we are very grateful to him for putting in so much effort.

AGM

Everyone is invited to come to the AGM. Once again, this will be held at Cholesbury Village Hall on **Tuesday, 8 December** at 8pm. As we have a fine pond on our Common, as well as a dew pond, our

speaker will come from the Million Ponds Project, a national conservation programme led by the charity Pond Conservation. The aim of this charity is to double the number of ponds in Britain over the next fifty years.

Linden Bevan-Pritchard (758750)

bvanp@care4free.net

Calling all riders

Since the first three working parties are aiming to maintain the permissive ride network on the Common, we would appreciate any help which riders could give us. If you or any of your children ride on the Common, could you please come out and help us cut back overhanging branches and encroaching trees, even if only for an hour or two. If you know anyone else who may not receive the Hilltop News but who rides on the Common, please could you ask them to come and help as well?

Working Parties for October – December 2009 9.30am – 12.30 pm.

Everyone is welcome, adults and children alike. Bring thick gloves. Refreshments provided.

For further information contact Oliver Parsons 758694 or Isobel Clark 758987 or email hccps@cholesbury.com

Date	Location	Activity
Oct 11	Bottom ride below Shepherds Cottage, Hawridge (GR 945067)	Cut back scrub and low branches to assist riders. Burn brush. Bonfire.
Oct 25	Rays Hill ride between Common Leigh and Post Office Cottages (GR 934070)	Re-open path and cut back low branches. Burn brush. Bonfire.
Nov 8	Bottom of Horseblock Lane SE side (RHS going down from Hawridge GR 943068)	Cut back overhanging branches and encroaching trees. Burn brush. Bonfire.
Nov 22	Opposite Shire Lane, Cholesbury (GR 933073)	Re-open paths in gorse area, remove trees; remove oaks from birch woodland. Bonfire.
Dec 6	Opposite Tankards Dene, Hawridge (GR 946066)	Re-open hollow way. Clear around broken apple tree. Bonfire.
Dec 13	Opposite High View to Ridgeway, Hawridge (GR 943067)	Fell trees on edge of road. Bonfire.



The sun shines on our Churches fete

The Hawridge & Cholesbury Churches Fete moved into the school grounds for the first time this year. Traditionally, when Hawridge are hosts, we set up the stalls on the Common and the teas are served over the road in the school, but with increasing traffic there is more risk of an accident. The decision was made to move and rearrange everything for the new and bigger facilities.

Our school children are certainly fortunate with their school environment in its lovely setting and wide playing field. We could spread the Fete stalls and sideshows over the field but if they are too dispersed we lose the fun of a crowded site. A good site plan was important. The grounds have just one vehicle entrance and plants, bottles, bric-a-brac and books must all be carried.

Fortunately, many stall holders bring their own gazebo and, by using extra bunting, the big site had a cheerful appearance.

This year the Horticultural Society brought tables to the school for their show on Saturday and this reduced some of the heavy carrying. The school allowed us to use their BBQ that was already on site. Duncan delivered the bales for the coconuts on Sunday but who would come on Monday morning? The answer was that Mike, Jose, Ian and James were busy well before 9am with the heavier work leaving the committee with lighter jobs, preparing for teas and rushing around in cars. The careful site plan unfolded with each stall in its own place until we disturbed a wasps' nest in the hedge. The site plan had put the Ice Cream stall by the wasps who must have thought the Fete was for them. Ann and Angela had to transport their gazebo and, with the extra space at the school, a gap was found with a bit of tactical shuffling.



The preparations took place in early mist and overcast skies but this changed at midday and the afternoon was hot under a glorious blue sky. Families sat and relaxed on the grass enjoying the view of our corner of the Chilterns while listening to the Ellesborough Band. Meanwhile Stall holders and Tea servers were busy with a good crowd of visitors buying books, plants and cakes or trying their luck on two Tombolas or finding skills for coconuts, bowling, teddy tossing or bottle racing. Angela the Angel made her Coin Collage debut, appropriately at the Churches Fete,

and took a total of £50.85. Chris Matthews won the £6 book token with his guess of £50.60. The children's area with toys for sale and Splat-the-Rat also featured Hook the Ducks for the first time. The visitors spent about £3,500. There will be expenses and a final figure will be published in the next Hilltop News. Thank you very much all helpers who set up and ran the Fete.

We are most grateful for Mrs Stallwood's help and cooperation in allowing the use of the school grounds.

John Farmer

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21st Century Parents

by the Reverend David Burgess

*Penny and I reached
a new stage in
our parenting this
summer. For the first
time in nineteen
years, we don't have
a child at school.*



It hasn't sunk in yet, but it hasn't struck us as particularly strange at this stage. I guess we'll start to feel it in a fortnight or so's time, when Emma is in Mexico, Robert in Manchester, and Charlotte embarks on a gap year with only the "wrinklies" (as our three affectionately call us) for company.

As far as I'm aware, this hasn't affected my plans for what we're going to be doing over the autumn; but it's an indication that, whether we're parents ourselves or not, all of us have different experiences of parental care, and each of us is at a different stage of that experience. So this month's article is, at its simplest, an invitation. We're running a course across the four parishes and we'd love you to join us.

If you've read this far, you won't be surprised to know that the course is called

'21st Century Parents'. It takes place at 8.00 pm on the Wednesday evenings of October 7 and 21 and November 4 and 18: the venue is the St Leonards Church Room.

What we're planning isn't formal: it's not a parenting course as such, nor is it a Bible study. We see it simply as a chance to share experiences and opinions on parenthood and family life. We'll be looking at things from a Christian perspective, but it's not going to dominate what we discuss. This means that it's open to all: church members, non-members, prospective parents, grandparents, non-parents (have I missed anyone out?) are all welcome.

We'd value anyone's opinion on this very important issue. If parenting duties need to come first and you can't make all the sessions, or need to take turns because of babysitting, etc, that's fine: the sessions are meant to stand alone as well as forming part of the overall course.

If you could let me know if you're planning to come, it would be a great help. And whether you attend or not, I'd be interested in your response to the following question:

"What should the church be doing to help parents and families in our society?"

I look forward to hearing your answer, and to welcoming as many as possible to the four sessions in October and November.

Yours in Christ,

David

21st CENTURY PARENTS - a course at St Leonards Church Room

Not a parenting course as such, and not a conventional church Bible study. Instead, a series of informal meetings taking a Christian perspective on parenting, raising children and family life.

This means that the course is open to all - parents, prospective parents, grandparents and non-parents alike. We think that all viewpoints are welcome and helpful in this very wide ranging area.

It takes place on alternate Wednesday evenings at 8.00pm - 7 October, 21 October, 4 November and 18 November. Coffee and tea will be provided, and the sessions themselves will last for a maximum of an hour and a half.



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CHURCH SERVICES – OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2009

DATE	DAY	St. John the Baptist THE LEE			St. Leonard's ST. LEONARDS			St. Laurence CHOLESBURY			St. Mary's HAWRIDGE			NOTES
4 Oct	Trinity 17	8.00	Holy Communion	DB	11.00	Family Communion	IC	9.30	Parish Communion	IC	9.30	Family Service	Lay	Mid-week Holy Communion
		11.00	Harvest Festival	DB		Sunday School	VO				6.00pm	Evensong	DB	
11 Oct	Trinity 18	10.00	Parish Communion	DB	6.00pm	Family	DB	10.45	Matins	IC	9.30	Holy Communion	IC	10.00am at The Lee on First Wednesday of the month
			Sunday School	JuH		Harvest Festival								
18 Oct	Luke the Evangelist	8.00	Holy Communion	IC	3.00pm	Civic Service at St. Leonards Parish Hall	DB	3.00pm	Joint Civic Service at St. Leonards Parish Hall		3.00pm	Joint Civic Service at St. Leonards Parish Hall		Holy Communion, Matins & Evensong Book of Common Prayer
25 Oct	Last after Trinity	10.00	Parish Communion	JH /DC	11.00	Matins	IC	9.45	Quiet Communion	DB	10.45	Parish Communion	DB	Parish / Family Communion & Morning Service
1 Nov	4 before Advent. All Saints	8.00	Holy Communion	DB	11.00	Family Communion	DB	9.30	Parish Communion	IC	9.30	Family Service	DB	Common Worship
		11.00	Matins	IC		Sunday School	VO				3.00pm	All Souls	IC /PN	
8 Nov	Remembrance Sunday	10.00	Remembrance	DB	10.45	Remembrance	JH	10.45	Remembrance	IC	9.30	Holy Communion with Remembrance	IC	DB= Rev. David Burgess IC= Rev. Ivor Cornish
15 Nov	2 before Advent	8.00	Holy Communion	DB	11.00	Parish Communion	DB	9.30	Holy Communion	IC	10.45	Parish Communion	IC	JH= Rev. John Hull
		10.00	Family Service	DB										
22 Nov	Sunday before Advent	10.00	Parish Communion	JH	11.00	Matins	IC	9.45	Quiet Service	DB	10.45	Parish Communion	DB	PN= Patricia Neale JuH= Judy Hart
			Sunday School	JuH										
29 Nov	Advent Sunday		Joint Service at Hawridge			Joint Service at Hawridge			Joint Service at Hawridge		10.45	Four Parish Communion	DB	VO= Virginia Oldham JoW= Joan Walton

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James Watson 01494 758914

Cholesbury

John Farmer 01494 758715
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CHOLESBURY

We have received generous responses from many Cholesbury residents and former residents to our **Appeal** letter.



Thank you very much for your support. 2009 is not the best time to ask for financial help but happily many of you value St Lawrence's Church as an integral and important part of Cholesbury. We have not closed the Appeal or determined the final figure. The programme of maintenance work will involve our Architect and be subject to a Faculty from Oxford.

Our next Fund Raising event is a **Quiz** on **Saturday 10 October** at Cholesbury Village Hall. The tickets cost £10 and include a hot casserole supper. Tickets are available from John Farmer and other PCC Members. Sandy and David Clarke will be the Quiz Masters so we anticipate a fun evening with a wide range of questions and a few unexpected answers!

We have also produced a **Christmas Card** with two fine photos of Cholesbury Church to help the Appeal. The Cards were professionally printed and have an impressive design. Yes, this is too early to think about Christmas but please keep them in mind for later in the year. The price at 60p each is very reasonable for a large card and they are available from Liz Green on 758035.

Thanks to all who helped with another successful **Churches Fete** on August Holiday Monday. The Fete depends on many volunteers and you came forward as usual! The Fete was held at the School for the first time and we enjoyed the extra

space. There were challenges to use the environment successfully and the Fete committee will welcome any feedback from those who attended. The weather in the afternoon was bright and sunny and the view to the South allowed us all to realise the exceptional situation that our school enjoys. A full report appears elsewhere in this edition. The interim income is £3,500 before expenses.

August Bank Holiday was exceptionally busy this year with the Fete, Horticultural Society Show and Art exhibition. Sunday was the fifth Sunday of the month and Cholesbury had an extra function as we held the **Joint Service**. We welcomed a good congregation from the other three parishes and our thanks go to the readers from The Lee and St Leonards. Thank you also to Brigid for providing refreshments after the service and to the Flower Ladies for their special arrangements.

The annual **Giving Service** this year is on **Sunday 25 October**. Our service is part of the nationwide Shoebox appeal that we have supported for a few years. Last year we discovered that our traditional November date was too late to catch the lorry to East Europe and had to change our plans. Please put the new date in your diary. Shoeboxes will be available in the Church from early October.

ST LEONARDS

As 'Gone Away' sounded over the grave of **Ian Crippen** on Tuesday

25 August there was a feeling of enormous sadness. It was an amazing tribute to Ian that nearly four



hundred people crowded into and around St Leonards church to say goodbye. David conducted a simple and moving service to which Karen contributed a great deal. Much is said of Ian's life elsewhere in this edition – meanwhile we offer our love and support to Karen and her family.

We have had to ask for an Interlocutory Faculty to remove the stone cross over the eastern apex of the church. It has become loose – due, we think, to the possible expansion of the metal pin attaching it to the church and the consequent breaking down of some of the lower section of stone work. It is our intention to erect scaffolding and to remove the cross for inspection by our architect. The east window will be covered meanwhile with a mesh to avoid any damage. Hopefully it will be replaced as soon as possible.

Harvest Festival – Sunday 11 October. As usual we welcome all who would like to join us for our Family Harvest Service at 6pm followed by a 'super supper' in the Village Hall. It was lovely to have so many young people with us last year and we hope you'll come again! Don't worry, you don't have to stay for the Auction! Please let Anne Butterworth (758700) know if you're coming so that you can be sure of a place as it does help with catering. Last year, even with the extension to the Parish Hall, we were pretty pushed to fit everyone in!

21st Century Parents is the title of a course David is running in St Leonards Church Room at 8pm **Wednesday 7th** and **21st October** and **Wednesday 4th** and **18th November**. Please see David's letter and the Box Advert.

If you can't make all the sessions, or need to take turns because of babysitting etc, that's fine - the sessions will stand alone as well as forming part of the overall course. It would be most helpful if people could let David know whether they think they are likely to come and in doing so could answer the question '**What should the church be doing to help parents and**

families in our society?' We live in a very fast-moving world and it will be fascinating to be able to discuss some of the more complicated issues that arise in family life.

Our very popular **Tea Parties** for the older members of the community; those who do not get out very often and anyone else who simply enjoys a delicious tea and a chat are, as always, on the fourth Wednesday in the month, **28 October** and **25 November** starting at 3pm. We are delighted to collect and take home anyone without transport. Please contact either Anne Lake 01296 620169 or Anne Butterworth 758700.

Family Communion – Family First on the first Sunday of each month is growing in numbers! In September we had twelve children in Sunday School; five 'older young' in Church who helped with readings and a considerable number of adults who are obviously enjoying this simple yet serious Communion Service. We would love you to join us! If you have views on this service, do please contact Ann Horn 758250 or Anne Butterworth 758700 or you could even try the Rector! He'd be delighted to hear from you.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Parish Council, a **Civic Service** will take place at the Parish Hall in St Leonards on **Sunday 18 October**.

HAWRIDGE

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Hawridge & Cholesbury Churches Fete in any way, thus helping our small village churches to survive.



Special All Souls Evensong on Sunday 1 November at 3pm – This has now become an annual service where we remember those who have died during the year from our

parishes and others from our friends and family we wish to pray for at this time. There will be an opportunity to light a candle of remembrance. You may wish to remember a loved one in silence but if you would like a name to be read out at the service please contact James 758914 or Joan 758332. Patricia Neale, a Licensed Lay Minister from Prestwood/Great Missenden will be preaching at this service.

Joint Service on 30 November at 10.45am – We look forward to welcoming all four Hilltop churches to this Joint Service. Our speaker still has to be confirmed.

Christingle Service – Sunday 6 December at 3pm – This will be a child-based service when each child will receive the traditional Christingle. The collection will be for The Children's Society. If you would like a candle money container to fill and bring back on 6 December, please contact Margaret or Joan 758332.

Hawridge Church Walking Group
– Autumn is here and our monthly walks are starting again! The first one is on **Tuesday 6 October starting at 10am at Cholesbury Cricket Pitch.** The **November walk is on Tuesday 3rd** and details of the starting place and time will be given later. As always coffee will be served after the walk and a donation of 50p towards church funds is appreciated! Please contact Joan or Margaret for information – 758332.

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'MURPHY'

One of the villages' best known dogs passed away in September. 'Murphy' was just over 15 and was acquired by Trafford and Caroline Matthews from the Chiltern Dog Rescue centre when a puppy.

Six years ago Murphy was 'dognapped' and was recovered after a reward was offered. Trafford thanks all those who regularly phoned when Murphy was spotted somewhere in the villages, having gone off for one of his walks.

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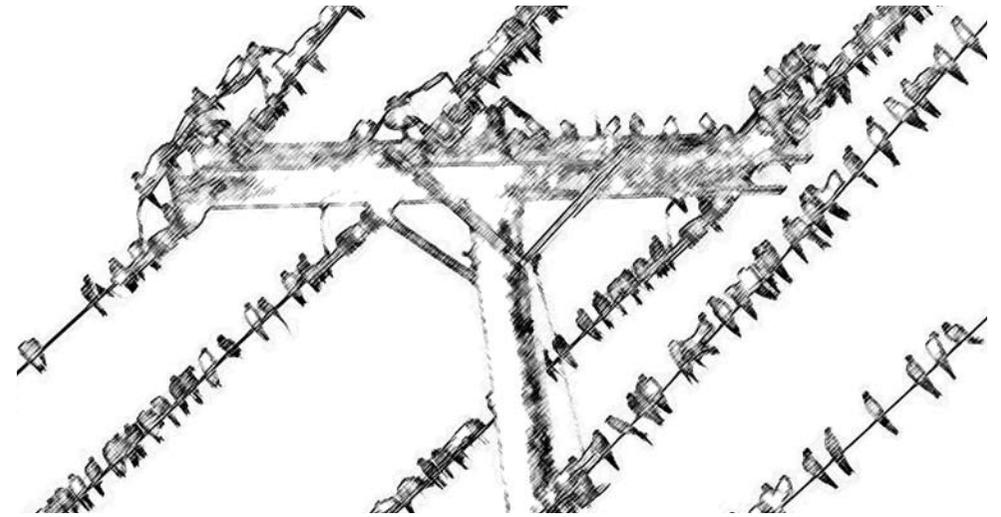
"A thousand shades of ochre, silver, emerald, smoky brass"

Sometimes, when I get stuck for a few words to start these Notes I turn to one of the various emails and articles that come my way, to gain some inspiration, or see what is topical at that moment. So this being one of those times, my attention was grabbed by one email, in particular, which seemed to be a good place to start this month. Spiders! Now the first thing the article said was that when spiders are mentioned you lose half your readers. So, to the 50% of you who are still reading, thanks for staying at least this far. Apparently, one thing you may have in common with fellow readers at this stage is a preference for reading less about 'the fluffy or cute members of the animal kingdom, bunnies and dolphins', preferring 'nature in the raw'.

Anyway, back to the spiders, and in particular the house occupying ones which will have started to make their presence known scurrying along the skirting or emerging cautiously from the fireplace. About now, and like clockwork, London Zoo starts getting calls each year from troubled house-owners who are desperate for advice to rid themselves of extremely hairy, long-legged arachnids which, thanks to David Attenborough or the late Steve Irwin documentaries, they readily, but mistakenly, identify as the deadly tunnel spider: no doubt imported on some exotic Australasian fruit.

It's not just the hairiness which is exaggerated, the going rate for size is around four inches long! It may feel like some kind of invasion, but this generation of house spiders will have been unseen, uninvited houseguests since they hatched out at the start of the year. They remain discretely out of site until their last moult is done and, now they are ready to find a mate, are at their most active. Such is their delight in living alongside you, if you manage to corral them into a tumbler and drop them out through the window they have a strong homing instinct and will find their way back in very quickly. On the upside, house spiders are efficient pest controllers ravenously devouring flies, mites and other small insects, equally though they can survive a famine for several months between meals.

As I write this, swallows are tumbling high above frantically feeding on the wing, making the most of the bloom of energy-rich invertebrates and storing up the food reserves for the journey to southern Africa. The aerobic spectacle is the result of the annual explosion of flying insects and those microscopic cousins of the aforementioned spiders who, despite not having wings, spin silk strands on which they ride the air currents. Periodically, and in ever more increasing numbers, the birds rest up in ordered lines along any convenient wires, conversing loudly. Before electricity and telegraphs what did they use instead? On past years' evidence, by October they will be on their way. However, more and more sightings of these birds have been reported in southern England during November



and even December suggesting a small, but increasing number do not make the marathon 6000 mile journey. This change in habit results from a milder autumn period, which in turn is extending the period during which a larger than previous supply of winged insects is available. It is doubtful though that those which remain behind survive through the winter, but in time we may find our swallows become winter companions.

On the path leading to St Laurence's Church I came across a newly established patch of liverworts where the holly had been cut back. In the wild they must be one of the most overlooked groups of plants, while in our gardens they are frequently the subject of complete annihilation. In past times these very primitive organisms would have been collected, dried and used, as their name suggests, as a cure for a range of diseases attributed to the liver. This is because the simple, flat emerald green 'thallus', which comprises the whole plant, is liver-shaped. The Chilterns may not be one of their prime habitats but they are still prolific and enjoy any damp, dappled shaded woodland edge or perhaps a newly created clearing where a tree may have fallen. Their success lies in being able to

invade quickly virgin territory, creating an overlapping, scaly green carpet across the unoccupied bark, which then develops its own moist microclimate: the perfect habitat for centipedes, beetles and mites. I know greenkeepers and nurserymen consider them a nuisance and will eradicate them, but in your garden they will provide an important part of your local ecosystem, a source of invertebrates for small mammals and birds, like wrens, goldcrests and treecreepers.

I always enjoy exploring the inter-connections between natural and local history. Once such example links our autumn hedgerows with the Second World War, which started sixty years ago last September. At the outbreak of war, there were food shortages. The impact of rationing on diets and the Nation's health resulted in cases of rickets and scurvy. A campaign initiated right here in Buckland Common by Claire Loewenfeld, a nutritionist, to promote the collection and processing of hedgerow fruits into syrups and preserves to supplement the diets of children with Vitamin C was enthusiastically taken up by the Government of the day, who distributed instructions and recipes to hospitals and schools. Top of the list

of beneficial fruit were rosehips, which had the highest concentration of Vitamin C. I am sure many can recall, both during and after the War, children being given the bright red sweet rosehip syrup on rice pudding or semolina. Claire also encouraged the use of other hedgerow fruit including blackberries, elderberries and crab apples. While our diets may not need supplementing in such a vital way we can still enjoy the tastes of the hedges, as well as their autumn colours. Others waiting to enjoy the low hanging fruit will be badgers and this year's new foxes set free from the security of the vixen, while redwings and thrushes, incoming from the north, will gorge on haws and sloes.

I conclude with a few words from a poem written some 170 years ago, which could describe our autumn scene.

"Leaves of all textures that a leaf could be: palm, fluff, prickle, matte and plume; bobbled; shaggy plush. A thousand shades of ochre, silver, emerald, smoky brass..."

They appear in a new book, 'Darwin: A Life in Poems', written by the naturalist, both aboard the Beagle and later. This new book coincides with the 150 anniversary, in November this year, of Darwin's *On the Origin of the Species*, and might make a worthy Christmas present for someone interested in natural history and poetry.

That's all this time. As always your observations and questions are welcome.
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HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY SCHOOL

Back to school (...and it's such fun)

Well, here we all are after a glorious six-week break but there's no mucking about: we're back and straight down to business. The term started with a two-week whole school project entitled 'Good To Be Us', where the children took time to talk about healthy food, share cooking (and eating) and generally have great fun taking part in a number of activities including a skipping workshop.

This particular challenge ended with a competition to see who could manage the most turns of the rope in a two-minute time period. An amazing top score of 207 took first place (yes that's 207 skips in 120 seconds) deservedly winning first prize of a skipping rope to keep and other goodies. Even the teachers were spotted skipping on the playground (enthusiastically but perhaps not quite so quickly!) The fortnight's project embraces all aspects of health and also covers safety, economic

wellbeing and spirituality. It's a lovely way for the pupils to get back into the swing of school life whilst getting to know their new form teachers.

Equally busy is our wonderful PSA, who are already planning how to raise funds for the school this term. They have arranged for a trailer to be left in the car park from Friday 25 September through to the morning of Monday 28 for the collection of apples (cookers and eaters) and pears which will then be taken away and pressed to make bottles of 'Hawridge & Cholesbury School Juice'. This juice (last year's vintage being quite lovely) will be sold at future events to help pay for school resources. If you have an excess of these fruits in your garden, please would you consider donating them to this worthy cause by depositing them, in boxes (...Sainsbury's have plenty of these for free) in the trailer over those dates. Thank you so much from all of the children.

So, we prepare ourselves for this autumn term (harvest festival, cross country and then Christmas nativities). How time flies.

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CHOLESBURY cum ST LEONARDS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

What a great way to start the bank holiday weekend! The Horticultural Show has gone from strength to strength and in this its 70th year we saw an impressive number of high quality entries in every class

The day started early with eager entrants weighed down with fantastic produce, crafts and some stunning photographs. The exhibits were set out with great care, making the hall look spectacular and soon the long slow job of judging began. Everyone I spoke to commented on the high standard of the entries and the meticulous preparation. Visitors enjoyed tea and cake in the late afternoon sunshine before the excitement of the prize giving and raffles. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success and to Marilyn Seal for giving the



prizes. Marilyn won a prize at the very first horticultural show and kindly agreed to come back for our 70th anniversary. This year we had 466 entries with 66 different people entering overall.

Given the standard of entries it's not an exaggeration to suggest that the best chance of success next year is to start the hard work now!

Many of you will have taken the opportunity to renew your membership along with submitting your entries but if you haven't please call Di Garner on 758347 for details or any other information. The Society continues to thrive but we are



always on the lookout for new members.

The Society's final event, the **AGM** is coming up and will take place on **Friday 20 November**. This is always a great night out and now is the time to start boning up on local facts for the quiz.

With the clocks going back soon, the London department stores opening their Christmas Shops and the winter solstice just round the corner there are still plenty of jobs left to help put the garden to bed for the winter.

Jobs to be getting on with in the garden

- Plant up patio pots or borders with wallflowers for a cheery spring show.
- Give bedding displays and pots a little attention to ensure their display lasts well into winter. Any tender plants you want to save for next year should be potted up, so they are established and ready to bring under cover when the weather turns cooler.
- Put plant supports around tall, late-flowering perennials to prevent them from being damaged by autumn winds.
- Give roses a final deadheading when the blooms have faded and shorten tall stems slightly to reduce wind rock. However, leave those that have developed hips for some extra autumn colour.
- Finish taking cuttings of fuchsia, heliotrope, verbena, coleus, argyranthemum and other tender plants, which can be overwintered on frost-free windowsills.
- Look out for indoor bulbs such as lachenalia and veltheimia, for autumn planting and daffodils that are prepared for early flowering at Christmas. Start watering dormant cyclamen pot plants



which have been left to die down for a rest. Freesia corms can also be planted in pots now for early, fragrant blooms next spring.

- Continue planting bulbs for spring-flowering displays. Give priority to daffodils, crocuses, hyacinths, fritillarias, erythroniums, irises and small bulbs in rock gardens. Tulips can be kept back for planting later in October and even into early November.
- Keep an eye on early ripening apple varieties, such as 'Discovery' and pick the fruit as soon as it's sweet enough to eat. Most early varieties won't keep, so eat them while they are at their best.
- Carefully lift ripe onions, breaking the roots and lay them out to dry before taking them into store. Plant out selected varieties of garlic suitable for autumn planting.
- Make the most of free seeds produced by perennials and other garden plants by saving them when they are fully ripe. Collect mature seed-heads in paper bags and hang them in a warm place to dry out. The seeds can be cleaned and sorted, then put into labelled envelopes and stored in a cool, dry place.
- Autumn is an ideal time to plant new shrubs and perennials.
- Prune back old flowering stems on rambler roses and tie in any new shoots to the support.
- Continue harvesting carrots and potatoes for storage, ensuring crops are dry and clean. Never store any produce showing signs of damage or infection.
- Hardy varieties of peas and broad beans can be sown now. Most benefit from cloche protection in winter.
- During autumn the garden often produces more waste than you can cope with, so now is the time to consider investing in a shredder and additional

compost bins.

- Stretch a large piece of small-mesh netting over ponds and water features to prevent autumn leaves from falling in. Peg down the edges. Pick off leaves regularly and remove any that blow in with a small net, taking great care not to damage butyl liners. Also clear away remains of dying aquatic and marginal plants.
- Finish sowing new lawns while the soil conditions are still warm enough for grass seed to germinate. Turf can still be laid in autumn, if the soil is not too wet.
- Enjoy autumn in your gardens - we look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Barbara Baddon



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Visitors to Cholesbury Village Hall enjoyed another fine exhibition

CHOLESBURY WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP

Cholesbury Watercolour Workshop had its origins in an evening class at Tring School under their excellent tutor Keith Richmond. When the school decided to close its evening classes most of the members decided to stay together at a different venue, Cholesbury Village Hall.

The workshop continued under Keith until ill health forced him to retire. Sadly he died two years ago and is very much missed. The workshop continues without a tutor, but with a certain amount of self-help from members. Although it is primarily a watercolour workshop, any other medium, such as acrylic, gouache or pastel is acceptable. The cost of the hall is divided between members so fees are low.

The Group holds an exhibition every year in late August with the proceeds from

donations and commission on sales going to Iain Rennie Hospice at Home. This year £150 was collected.

Currently the Group is looking for a tutor and for new members. Meetings are on Thursdays from 7.15pm to 9.15 and anyone, no matter what their ability, is welcome to drop in and see what is going on - or contact **Ron Evens on 758446**.

THANKS FROM MADELINE

Madeline Finlay would like to thank all those who have helped her while George has been in hospital. She greatly appreciates the kind support from her friends in the villages.

We all wish George the very best.

MUSIC VIA LAPTOP

Brought up in Hawridge, where his parents Liz and Brian still live, Ed Wright has excelled at breaking musical boundaries by combining full orchestra with live electronics.

Having performed many prestigious concerts in North Wales, where he is currently finishing his PhD, Ed (now 29), is performing closer to home in London on 7 November. Those interested in hearing how the laptop is increasingly being recognized as a method of creating music should note the following details...

'Polarities - a concerto grosso for orchestra and live electronics', featuring Ed Wright with Symphonia Britannica conducted by Peter Fender - 7 November at St James' Church, Piccadilly.

Find further details at: www.virtual440.com or www.ph-br.co.uk

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THE THURSDAY CLUB

The next Thursday Club Social is on **15 October** and will be a talk on 'Waddesdon and the Rothschilds'.

This commences at 7.30pm at St. Leonard's Village Hall - members free, non members £3.00. Coffee and biscuits will be served. Membership remains at £4.00 p.a. - please contact Guy Williams 07752814144 or Anne Lake 01296 620169.

Diary note: our Christmas Party will be on **10 December**.

Guy Williams

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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 December/January edition should be sent to Graham Lincoln, Imogen Vallance (Societies), or Anne Butterworth (Church Matters) by **9 November** latest. Please note that photos sent online must be at least 2,500 x 1,750 pixels in size.

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