

Chilbolton and Wherwell Community Magazine

This month sees a large and varied selection of articles to keep you occupied, together with some requests for help. As always there are a great number of things to do in your spare time from a film in Chilbolton hall to an illustrated talk on the River Anton Conservation project in Wherwell hall. Do you have a bit of spare space in your garden? Then why not join the Chilbolton Horticultural Society for some ideas on what trees to plant. Special mention must be made of Amy Bennett and her fantastic adventure on Kilimanjaro. Reading her update really does bring to life the struggles she encountered and what an amazing achievement it was for her to reach the top. Well done Amy. With the new season just a few weeks away, I'm sure we're all looking forward to the spring. With the snowdrops fading the daffodils will soon be their usual carpet of yellow.

Terry Gilmour

Thank you to Sue Blazdell, Terry Gilmour and Carole Marits who produced this month's magazine and to Chris Mason for Printing and Mike Keys and helpers for collation and distribution.

Church Matters

The Downs Benefice

The Revd Juliet Montague, BTh (normal day off: Monday)

Curate: The Rev'd Stuart Rason, The Rectory, Chilbolton Tel: 860258

Benefice Administrators: Vanessa Denham & Maggie Hobbs

From the Parish Registers:

Wherwell

Wedding	20 Dec	Peter Edmunds & Melanie Green
Baptism	17 Jan	Joshua Lee Mitchener
Baptism	24 Jan	George Gower
Baptism	31 Jan	Frederick Martyn

LENT SERIES 2010 – THE PASSION

Date	Venue	Time
Monday 22 February 2010	Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall, Wherwell	7:10 pm – 9:00 pm
Tuesday 2 nd March 2010	Sparsholt Memorial Hall	7:10 pm – 9:00 pm
Wednesday 10 th March 2010	Crawley Church Room	7:10 pm – 9:00 pm
Thursday 18 th March 2010	Littleton Church Room	7:10 pm – 9:00 pm
Friday 26 th March 2010	Chilbolton Village Hall	7:10 pm – 9:00 pm
Monday 29 th March 2010	Littleton Church Room	7:10 pm – 9:00 pm

EASTER LILIES IN WHERWELL CHURCH

As usual we will be purchasing some lilies with which to decorate our lovely Church at Easter. Anyone wishing to make a contribution, perhaps to commemorate a family member or friend at this time, may make a donation to either Mrs. Margot Hellier or Mrs. Jo Baughen. Please write the names of your loved ones on the sheet at the back of the Church.

Deanery link with Diocese of Madi and West Nile, North West Uganda

From 30 September – 18 October, the Andover Deanery will be hosting a visit by several ministers from our link Diocese in Uganda. The clergy intend to visit Schools, Nursing Homes, PlayGroups etc as well as sharing in our church services. This is a very special opportunity for us all to learn more about life in the Church in Uganda, develop relationships, understand issues that we share in life and faith, and explore further ways of developing the link. Rev Andrew Ashdown, who chairs the Deanery Overseas Committee, is looking for a volunteer from our Benefice to join the visit planning committee in order to share news and plans. If anyone is interested in helping in this role, or finding out more about it, then please contact the Downs Benefice office 01962 880845.

St Peter and Holy Cross, Wherwell Sunday Evening Services

The Wherwell PCC would like your feedback regarding our Evening Service. We are interested in knowing whether you prefer an Evening Communion Service, or Evensong. Kindly tick the appropriate space:

I prefer an **Evening Communion Service**

I prefer an **Evensong Service**

(Please Print Your Name)

Please return this survey form to Mrs Anna Lipa, The 'Evening Service Survey Box' at the back of the Church or Email your preference to John Conte at WherwellBiz@aol.com Thank You.

Wherwell PCC

SIMPLY

SUNDAY

Wherwell Village Hall Tea

Every 2nd Sunday
4 – 5.30 pm

14th March – “Joshua”

11th April – “Gideon”

9th May – “David”

13th June – Beach outing

11th July – Mountain

Biking and Picnic

Family fun with games,
crafts, and activities
followed by tea.

Our theme is Bible
Superheroes

Chilbolton Rectory Breakfast

Every 4th Sunday
From 8.45am

28th February

28th March

25th April

23rd May

27th June

25th July

We welcome
families to come for
a relaxed and
informal breakfast at
the Rectory followed
by a family service at
10am at St Mary The
Less, Chilbolton.

Simply Sunday is organised and funded by and for
the people of The Downs Benefice enabling the
events to be free of charge. If you would like any
further information, please contact The Rev'd Stuart
Rason, The Rectory, Chilbolton, Tel 860258

The Next Chapter

What is Confirmation? What does it do? What does it show in your life? These are the questions that everyone asks when it comes to being confirmed, I asked them all at least twice! People think that after you are christened that's it, you just go to church every now and then and call yourself a Christian. That is just the first chapter the next is a little more.

Being confirmed is a really special event. It is when you are ready to stand up and say "I believe and trust God, and I want to serve him!" Now, this may seem really scary and hard but it really isn't, because you start to realise that God is going to help you, your church is ready to show you the path when you go astray and that you really are the son or daughter of God! I thought that being a Christian was not a big deal, that you just went to church and talked to God, so when I was asked if I wanted to start going to confirmation classes I was really surprised and really scared because I thought I wasn't ready to do that, I thought maybe God doesn't really exist and that the Bible was just a story before then.

When I went to my first class I was really scared about what I was meant to do and what everyone would think of me. I went in and sat down, everyone looked nice, and they were! I soon realised that I wasn't the only one who was anxious about being confirmed, we all were! We all had different ideas about who God was and how we should pray, we were able to come up with different ideas and still come to some form of conclusion! We studied everything and at the end of it all we knew that we were God's children and that we were all ready to go on to the next chapter and be confirmed.

After weeks of learning and preparing, the great day arrived. We were nervous and excited about the service, some of us were worrying if we were going to make it to the Bishop without falling on our faces! We ran through the service one more time, we all reassured each other that we were going to be fine and then we sat down in our places with our parties of 5 to 70! Soon the service started we all smiled at each other and began.

Soon it came to the confirmation; we went up one by one to receive the cross of oil on our foreheads. Soon it was my turn; I walked up there telling myself that there was nothing to be nervous about, that this would be a breeze. I knelt down, I looked at the Bishop's smiling face and when the put his hand on my head I felt warmth spread through my body like a warm hug, I felt the cross seep in to my skin and I knew that it would always be there, that I was now, and forever shall be a servant and daughter of God.

At the end of the service we all cheered and congratulated each other
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we had our photos taken and looked at the books we were given. We all marvelled at our cake and thanked everyone for coming. We all said good bye to each other, knowing that it wouldn't be forever.

That night I thought over my big adventure and said to myself; "I'm glad I did this because I couldn't have for a better entry to God's service.

Someone told me; 'Fides quaerem intellectum' this means; 'Faith seeking understanding' to me this pretty much sums up my look on faith; You need faith, but seeking guidance is needed, but in the end it all comes down to understanding your faith. This is one of the best phrases I have ever heard because it is a phrase that can really help anyone in their faith.



St Mary's Crawley, 5th December 2009.

Bishop Trevor, Revds Juliet, Jill, Stuart, Jennifer. Alice, Alys, Suzie, Philippa, Helen, Callum, Oliver, Ian and Alex

Alice Hobbs

THE FRENCH MARKET IS BACK IN STOCKBRIDGE DON'T MISS OUT!

SUNDAY 18TH APRIL

From 10am until 4pm

There will be a CHEESE LORRY, BREAD BAKED ON SITE, CROISSANTS AND PATISSERIES, CHARCUTERIE, OLIVES, CIDER, SMOKED HAMS, and CALVADOS. A CREPES STALL FRESHLY MADE PRALINES and of course... GARLIC

The Traders are entering into the spirit this year including CAVISTE who are holding a French Wine Tasting, LANE END KITCHEN WARE who will offer 10% off their FERMOB outdoor furniture, made in France by a family firm from the Rhone area.

SALUTE cards and THE GARDEN INN

Chilbolton Village Hall

I thought readers and residents would be interested to know of our current plans and recent developments at the Hall.

I am very pleased to advise that Becky Williams has accepted the role of Hall Booking Secretary and she can be contacted on 861033 if the Hall facilities are required for a function. Becky has taken over from Denise Hall who has done an excellent job and the whole Committee offer their sincere appreciation for her hard work.

We are resuming our monthly walks with effect from the 11th April and they will take place on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Those residents who wish to participate should arrive at the Hall for a 10-30am start and each walk will be scheduled for about 2 hours. Our thanks to Maureen Treadwell for arranging this activity.

As is generally known, the Hall is a registered charity and entirely dependent upon the income that is generated by its various uses. The Parish Council makes an annual donation of £600, for which we are very grateful, and this supplements hiring fees. The grant is a useful way of providing help to all the very many Village societies and clubs who use the Hall as we do not make a profit on our activities and wish to keep the charges as low as we can. In some cases we are able to qualify and bid for grants from a variety of sources, but in essence we survive by our own endeavours. I therefore want to draw attention to a web site called “Easyfundraising”

Do have a look at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/chilboltonvh> - it's the easiest way to raise money for the Village Hall. If you already shop on line with retailers such as Amazon, Next, Argos, John Lewis, Comet, iTunes, then we need you to sign up for free, to raise money while you shop! There are over 2000 well-known retailers linked to this site who will donate up to 15% of the purchase price without any cost to you the purchaser. The service is free to use and you will also get access to hundreds of exclusive discounts and voucher codes, so not only will you be helping us, you'll be saving money yourself.

We are continuing to have the film shows and to keep the entrance fee the same even though Moviola have increased their charges substantially. The film shows are popular and with the serving of wine and ice cream it has become a social event.

The Stage project is now nearing a conclusion and will soon offer an additional facility.

We are always seeking individuals to join the Committee and participate in our arrangements. If interested please call me on 861334

John Temple - Chairman

How to Explore your Local Countryside

Do you want to see more wildlife when you are out and about? Are you worried about getting lost? Try this **course** on which you can learn basic map reading skills, how to read tide tables and get the best out of binoculars. Susan Simmonds will explain how to find and identify elusive wildlife in woodland, hedgerow and ponds and how you can help wildlife in your garden. There will be a mixture of indoor instruction and outdoor exploration each week.

Test Valley Woodlands in Spring

Join us in exploring our local woodlands with Susan, identifying and discovering woodland wildlife in spring, including carpets of bluebells. **Saturdays, 10-12noon, 24 April, 8 and 15 May. Cost £25**

First session - Chilbolton Village Hall

Second and Third sessions - Harewood Forest. Meet at Car Park at junction of A3057 and B3420. (Map ref: SU 372 421).

These courses must be booked at least 2 weeks in advance to secure your place. Bookings can be made by phoning **Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 01489 774 400** between 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri or by completing a booking form online at www.hwt.org.uk.



Test Valley Brass Youth Band

B a r n D a n c e & S u p p e r

in support of TVBYB Concert Tour to Portugal

L i c e n s e d B a r

at

Chilbolton Village Hall, Saturday 24th April at 7:00pm

Music and Calling by **Ian Puffett** of the popular **Spike Island Folk Dance Band**. Periods of dancing will be interspersed with other items & supper. Choice and pace of dances will be adjusted to suit the age & experience of everyone.

Tickets & Information: Tel: **01264 324056**
or visit www.testvalleybrass.co.uk

TICKET PRICE: £7.50

Several youngsters from Chilbolton & the surrounding villages play & learn music with the Test Valley Brass Youth Band (*Reg. Charity 1090095*). In May they are eagerly anticipating the chance to travel south & play at various venues to promote the British Tradition of Brass Band Music in a cross cultural exchange with young Portuguese musicians. Proceeds from this event will help them realise this chance.

Chilbolton Players
Presented



The Wizard of Oz

Once again the Chilbolton players have excelled themselves in producing a most wonderful version of the Wizard of Oz. With praise and positive feedback from all the audiences' fun was had by all.

In rue Oscar style, Sue Austin and Angie Budd (the directors) would like to thank the cast and crew for pulling off such a diverse show in such a professional way.

The Cast: Andrew Coombes, Jennie Pope, Nigel Munns, Georgia Munns, Mandy Coombes, Judy Palmer, Fiona Talbot , Jon Trickett, Sue Sheath, Carole Marits, George Marits, Amy Budd, Ollie Dodson, Camilla Dodson, Hollie Foster , Grace Foster, Izzy Hawke, Elise Geernaert, Fleur Geernaert, Zoe Trickett, Hanneka Piggott-Rowles, Harry Coles, Ben Conor, Max Foster, James Hawke, Matthew Jebbitt and Zac Trickett.

The Crew: Jill Maynard, Ed Ferrand, Sandy Ferrand, Helen Brown, Jane Bowen, Mike Keys, Annette Keys, Ian Walker, Nicky Walker, Jim Duffy, Maggy Duffy, Sheila Brain, Hollie Blakelock, Wendy Andrews, Martin Brown, Richard Richardson, Louise Ellison, Neil Connor, Gemma Fortune and Chilbolton Stores. And countless helpers to these key roles without whom this show would not have been possible.

And most of all **THANK YOU** to you the Audience who made all our work worthwhile.

**Watch out for the Photos coming soon on
www.chilboltonplayers.org.uk**

BOAZ thanks Chilbolton Players

We had a lovely time at the Panto on Monday night. I hope you all heard how good we felt it was. Congratulations to you all! We have been talking about it today at break times. The members were very impressed with the wicked witch! The costumes were great. A panto is just the sort of interactive entertainment our members love. Thank you so much for inviting us, for the drinks and biscuits and making us feel so welcome. Kind regards and have a lovely for the real shows.

Sally Ratcliffe

The Wherwell Website

It seems like a very long time ago when I came back to Wherwell from a life at University building robots and electronics but then ended up building websites for a living. A bit of a change of plan but there you go, there seemed to be more demand for websites rather than robots!

The Wherwell website (www.wherwell.net) has been around now since 1998 when a domain name alone cost £170+VAT (now just a few pounds), I'd like to thank everyone for their contributions so far although we are sparse on content in some areas, so please send in your contributions I'd love to keep the site up to date, it has been something of a long standing project as many of you know.

In the early days it was hugely difficult to get visitors let alone content, and as the Internet as grown so too has public interest in our village and therefore our website. Last year alone we had **5,322 unique visitors**, and our visitors from Google (people searching for Wherwell related information) **grew by an astonishing 48%** in 2009.

So if you want your Wherwell related information in the public domain get those emails on their way, or if you have stories and pictures that can be scanned in let me know too, we have already added a large number of articles from 50 years of Anthologies and are keen to build on our previous success. Submissions for the Wherwell Website

Richard Rowles

Youth Group in Wherwell

We are considering starting a youth group based at the Playing Fields Pavilion. The age range will be 11 to 16 years old and may be one weekday evening every two weeks to start with. To do this we need help and intend to hold an open evening in the pavilion on Thursday 22nd April to discuss the idea. Your views mean a lot to us, so please come and have your say or send an E-mail to angierowles124@btinternet.com or a letter to Cliff Goodall, 8 Beech Grove, Wherwell

Cliff

Goodall

KILIMANJARO HIKING CHALLENGE UPDATE

You may remember that in the October 2009 edition of the Parish magazine, I told you that I would be climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Well, I've been there, seen it, done it, got the certificate and food poisoning!

We left Heathrow on 21st January for a night flight to Ethiopia. Everyone was in high spirits as we landed safely, only to find that our onward flight to Kilimanjaro was overbooked! Eventually the airport authorities sorted things out and we reached our hotel in the afternoon of 22nd. After resting, we enjoyed a meal together (dubbed 'the last supper'), which saw the tables unusually covered in bottles of water rather than wine!

We were all very excited when we finally set off to tackle the mountain on 23rd. We walked all day through jungle terrain, where the fantastic weather left us all hot, sticky and tired. We were surprised to find that the altitude was affecting us all ready, leaving us lightheaded and giggly.

The 24th brought more good weather and some major headaches, but the scenery was amazing - like something out of Lord of the Rings. The 25th involved a 10-hour hike which left us with swollen knees and ankles, and eyeballs which felt as though they would explode any minute. We were unable to sleep much that night due to ice on our sleeping bags in temperatures of minus 15 degrees. The daytime hikes of 26th and 27th were a bit of a blur for me as I was severely affected by altitude sickness which left me dizzy and confused with a nosebleed. Most of us were suffering similar symptoms and we hit a major low point which left conversation somewhere between limited and non-existent. If it hadn't been for the cheerful encouragement of the porters/guides, I doubt whether any of us would have been able to continue.

Those of us who were still able to try for the summit left at midnight on the 27th wearing at least six layers each. The temperature was still minus 15 degrees and we had 25 mph winds against us for a scheduled 13 hour round trip. For what seemed like an eternity we could only keep putting one foot in front of another and follow the heels of the person in front - we felt totally switched off from normality. By 6.00 am on 28th the sun was boiling hot and we were dehydrated and exhausted, and the doctor who was with us had to send some people back to the last camp. I was lucky enough to be allowed to continue, although I confess to having no energy left at all - I was running on absolute reserve tanks. Nothing can describe the feelings of euphoria and elation I felt on reaching the summit at 9.30 am local time, and the whole experience has left me feeling very humbled - it was the most amazing experience of my life.

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My very grateful thanks to those of you who sponsored me to attempt the challenge. Special thanks also to Dave Rabbetts for his advice and encouragement, and for lending me some of the equipment needed. A further thank you is due to Energie Fitness in Andover for devising my training programme and ensuring that I stuck to it. The biggest thank you of all goes to my parents for their unceasing love, support and help with the fundraising side of things.

So far, over £1500 has been sent to Macmillan Cancer Support from my appeal. If anyone wishes to sponsor me retrospectively, cheques made payable to 'Kilimanjaro Hiking Challenge' can be sent to me c/o 5 Chapel Court, Wherwell, Andover, SP11 7JQ. The bank account will remain open until the end of March, when the final monies will be forwarded to Macmillan. Thank you all, once again, for your support.

Amy Bennett

Chilbolton Stores Says “Thank You”

Just a quick message to say thank you to all our customers who were so supportive during the shop refit and necessary closures. The work is now complete and hopefully you will all like the new look as much as we do.

As much as possible, we used local suppliers for the work, so thank you as well to Steve Picco, Gavin and Ross Cousins and Aztec Flooring. A final thank you to Hampshire County Council and SEEDA who provided a substantial grant to cover much of the work.

Our plans now are to introduce new products and services that will complement our existing range. Look out in store and on our website www.chilboltonstores.co.uk for further details.

Jo, David and staff

Wherwell Auction of Promises

Date for your Diary!

8th May 2010, 7.00p.m. for a 7.30 p.m. start

We also need lots of promises: from cakes to holiday homes, from pet sitting to dinners – the more creative, the better. To add your promise please e-mail wherwell@f2s.com

Winchester *and district* Mencap

registered charity no. 264604

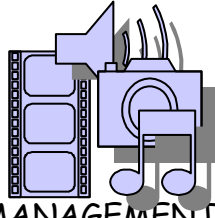
Bridge Tea
on
Thursday 22nd April 2010
at
Waverley, Sleepers Hill, Winchester
SO22 4NE at 2.30-5.30pm



Homemade Tea
Entry Fee £50 per table

Page 13 of 32
Entries: Pamela Jones 01962-
861274 tandp.jones@virgin.net

Come to the Movies !!



CHILBOLTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Proudly Present

Glorious 39 (12A)

Bill Nighy, Julie Christie, Christopher Plummer, Romola Garai and Jenny Agutter star in Stephen Poliakoff's thriller set among the English aristocracy on the eve of WWII. A young actress discovers that her adopted family is implicated in a conspiracy which threatens Britain's response to the Nazi menace.

In Chilbolton Village Hall

on

Friday, 5th March, 2010 at 7.30 pm

Doors open 6.45 pm

Tickets £5.00 - In advance

Or £5.50 - On the door (subject to availability)

Price includes tea/coffee and biscuits

Wince and choc ices will be on sale

To book your ticket, please ring Sheila Laughton on 01264 860460,

Maureen Treadwell on 01264 860380

or Beryl Lawrence on 01264 860618

Village amenities update from Cllr Gossling

Road Gritting. :- Now the snow has finally cleared, I would like to update you on what actions are being taken by the Parish Council, to ensure that in future we all have a better chance of driving in and out of the Village, when the snow comes back. This is not normally the responsibility of the Parish Council, but clearly the local authorities will struggle when we have uncommonly heavy snow falls and it will be up to the Village to help clear the routes. The main priority is to ensure that the bus route (along Village Street, up Drove Road, across Branksome Avenue, down Station Road and along Coley Lane) is kept clear. Attention is also being paid to reducing any potential 'danger spots' such as Martins Lane and other areas where steep slopes caused limited or no access. In cooperation with the local police and representatives of the Highways Agency a number of locations have been identified where additional salt/grit boxes could be placed and 6 green boxes have already been ordered. The plan is to use local residents to help spread the grit, as and when Highways are unable to grit the routes themselves and so if anyone is willing to help in this task, please contact me on 861375. Due to limited funding we are not able to put in place as many boxes as we potentially need, so I am also asking if anyone would like to 'sponsor' the cost of a box that they feel is required, again if anyone is interested in sponsoring additional boxes, please contact me. Also we are looking to get the priority status of the bus route and Martins Lane, raised so that we have a better chance of Highways clearing them more often and to ensure that where local farmers have been engaged to clear roads, they actually do so. Of course any action we are taking will not be able to cope with severe weather but hopefully it will help to support the work of Hampshire County Council and to help keep the Village open.

Allotments. Now that hopefully spring is coming, I would like to point out that we have a number of spare allotments and if anyone is interested in one, please contact me or the clerk for further information.

Cllr Martin Gossling

Dates for your diary

March 2010

1 st		Red Garter CVH
2 nd	7:45 pm	Horticultural Society CVH
2 nd	7:00 pm	CPC CVH
5 th	2:00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer
5 th	7:30 pm	Moviola – Glorious 39 CVH
6 th	10:30 am	Wherwell coffee morning - WVH
9 th	7:00pm	WPC – WVH
12 th	7:15 pm	Climate Change and the Hampshire Landscape Longstock Village Hall, nr Stockbridge
12 th		PTA Swishing Evening
13 th	7:30 pm	THE DOWNS BENEFICE CHOIR SPRING CONCERT St Stephen's Church, Sparsholt
15 th	12:30 pm	Midday Mums - WVH
16 th	7:30 pm	WI - CVH
16 th	7:30 pm	Wherwell Fete meeting - WVH
19 th	8:00 pm	Anton Conservation Project - WVH
26 th	7:00 pm	Lent Series: The Passion – Chilbolton Village Hall
26 th & 27 th	7:30 pm	Johnny and the Dead – Stockbridge Village Hall
28 th	10:00 am	Chilbolton Rectory Breakfast
29 th		Red Garter - CVH

Chilbolton Horticultural Society

An illustrated talk

Trees for small gardens

by Andrew McIndoe (from Hilliers)

Tuesday 2nd March. 7:45 p.m.

Chilbolton Village Hall

Members free, Visitors £3.00

Annual membership £5.00

Further details Sheila Evans 860697

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA

Theatres:

04/03/10 to 20/03/10: **The Glass Menagerie.** By Tennessee Williams. Performances at 7.30pm (Mon-Wed), 2.30pm & 8pm (Thu & Sat, no matinees on 04/03 & 06/03), 8pm (Fri) at Salisbury Playhouse. Tickets £12-£19. Tel (01722) 320333 www.salisburyplayhouse.com

09/03/10: **Alfie.** By Bill Naughton. Presented by Blackeyed Theatre at 7.45pm at The Lights, Andover. Tickets £12.50-£13.50 (concessions £11.50). Tel (01264) 368368 www.thelights.org.uk

23/03/10 to 27/03/10: **April in Paris.** By John Godber. Presented by RAODS at Plaza Theatre, Romsey at 7.30pm. Tickets £9 (first night £7). Tel (01794) 512987 www.plazatheatre.com

27/03/10 & 28/03/10: **The Gruffalo.** A Tall Stories Production. Performances at 11am & 2pm on 27/03, 10am & 2pm on 28/03 at Theatre Royal, Winchester. Tickets £10 (concessions £8.50). Tel (01962) 840440 www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk

27/03/10: **Chris Addison.** Comedian. At The Lights at 8pm. Tickets £15-£16.

Music:

10/03/10: **Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen.** At The Lights, Andover at 7.45pm. Tickets £15-£16 (£14 concession) Tel (01264) 368368 www.thelights.org.uk

20/03/10: **The Blues Band, 30th Anniversary Tour** at Theatre Royal, Winchester at 8pm. Tickets £20 (concessions £18). Tel (01962) 840440 www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk

25/03/10: **Andover Music Club – Stanford String Quartet** at The Lights at 7.30pm. Tickets £10. (01264) 368368 www.thelights.org.uk

27/03/10: **Romsey Singers – Romsey Choral Society with Charivari Agreeable Sinfonie perform Bach – St John Passion** at Romsey Abbey at 7.30pm. Tel (01794) 512987. www.romseynet.org.uk/musicromsey.htm

Other events:

21/03/10 to 25/04/10: **Inspired by Nature Exhibition.** The work of local artists at Hillier Gardens, near Romsey. Open from 10am to dusk. Free admission to exhibition. www.hilliergardens.org.uk

Country Markets:

Country Markets are held weekly in Andover and Stockbridge selling homemade and local produce. The Stockbridge market is held in the Town Hall every Thursday, 10.00am - 12.00 noon. The Andover market is held by the Guildhall and in Rendezvous, Union St. every Friday, 8.00am – 12.15pm

Farmers' Market Dates:

14 Mar 2010 – Winchester

21 Mar 2010 – Andover

28 Mar 2010 – Winchester

For more information, please ring (01420) 588671, or visit the website at www.hampshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk.

HORSEY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have you a couple of hours to spare? Andover Riding for the Disabled is looking for volunteer helpers for Ibthorpe and Abbots Ann. Experience with horses and to be able to run at the trot! (Often the highlight of the lesson) would be a real help. Should you have a suitable horse or pony to bring along once a week, please, do let us know.

Andover Riding for the Disabled is the largest RDA group in the South of England. Over 80 riders come and have lessons, fun days, picnics & many other activities throughout the year. The aim is to give to our many riders whose ages range from 4 to 74, a sense of fun, therapy, independence, enjoyment and achievement. Throughout the year we must raise funds for our ever increasing running costs. The very popular **DAFFODIL SUNDAY** at Binley is one of our most important fundraising days. To find out more contact the Organiser: Elizabeth Maclay 01264 738229 or the Secretary: Mercedes Leonard 01264 735246

MB

Leonard

Daffodil Sunday

Daffodil Sunday 2 – 5pm on 11 April 2010

At Binley, St Mary Bourne In aid of Riding for the Disabled.

Two Glorious Gardens, with Woodland Walks.

Home made Teas, Plants, Bric-a-Brac and Raffle.

Entrance £2.00. Well behaved dogs on leads welcome (50p).

CHILBOLTON CHURCH FETE 2010 Help! **SATURDAY JUNE 26TH**

We are looking for some new people to take over the running of the Fete. To help make it a more manageable task, we are thinking of splitting the organisation into 4 groups:

- 1. Structure:** This would encompass the finding of a site, organising parking, Marquees, sound, movement of tables and chairs etc. and “entertainment”
- 2. Food and Drink** – including the organisation of the BBQ, Bar, Teas and Ice Cream and Candy floss stalls.
- 3. Side Shows:** This would be co-ordinating all the stalls, including the Grand Draw, Nearly New, Cake stall etc.
- 4. Advertising:** This includes all press coverage, road signs, banners etc. If we can find people to take on these areas of the Fete organisation now, we would be able to take them through the planning, ready for our retirement. If you would like to help please contact either:
Jeannie Goodeve-Docker - 860792 or Jennie Pope - 860852

Andover Museum Loft Singers, with Belshazzar's Feast & Craig Morgan Robson

Andover Museum Loft Singers want to say a big thank you to Sam at The Abbots Mitre, and to everyone who came to support us at our carol singing in the pub in December. Thanks also to everyone who contributed so generously to Naomi House Funds – we sang at three pubs over the festive season, and raised a total of £253.53.

We would welcome your support again, and are performing on

Wednesday 14 April, 7.30pm At

THE LIGHTS ANDOVER

Andover Museum Loft Singers present **'Folk in Harmony'**

Featuring : An evening of musical entertainment featuring new arrangements of traditional songs by conductors Paul Sartin and Sarah Morgan. You'll enjoy fabulous 3 and 4 part harmonies from the choir together with a performance from Belshazzar's Feast, nominated for Best Duo in the 2010 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards.

Then be captivated by Craig Morgan Robson who have performed in the USA and Canada as well as the UK with a range of mainly traditional material, strongly linked with their regional identity.

Tickets: £9 Pullmans: £10

Concessions: £7.50



Terry Pratchett's

Johnny & The Dead

Adapted by Stephen Briggs

Presented by the Young Stockbridge Amateur Dramatics Society

March 26th and 27th, 7.30pm at Stockbridge Town Hall

Tickets £7.50. Under 16's £5.00

Tickets from: Robinson's, The Garden Inn and King's Somborne P.O.

Young Thespians Bring Pratchett Tale to Life on Stockbridge Stage

Johnny Maxwell can see the dead. He can talk to them too - much to his friends' amazement. So, when the news breaks that the local council plans to sell the cemetery to a property developer, Johnny learns that there are some things in life (and death) that are worth fighting for.

Young Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society will perform 'Johnny and the Dead' by Terry Pratchett, adapted for the stage by Stephen Briggs, on March 26 and 27 at 7:30pm in Stockbridge Town Hall.

With a cast of more than a dozen talented actors ranging in age from 11 to 15 years old, 'Johnny and the Dead' is different from most amateur dramatic productions in that the only adults involved are the director and the backstage crew. But that doesn't mean it's child's play; the cast have worked tirelessly for several months to bring this show to the stage.

'It's amazing how much dedication and talent these young actors have shown throughout the audition and rehearsal process,' said Sarah Litton, the play's director. 'They've worked to a very high standard, and that will shine through in the production. We're very excited about this show, as it's the first by Young SADS since 2007, and we're certain the audience will agree it's been worth the wait.'

The cast includes Jack Murphy of Stockbridge, age 11, in the title role, as well as Charlie Murphy (13), Tallulah Smart (13), Hannah Davies (13) and Lucy Murphy (15), all of Stockbridge; Alice Donlon (12) and Rosie Monk (11) of Up Somborne; and Jessica MacBean (13), Issie Van Leest (12), Isabelle Ryan (13), Lauren Cartwright (11), Emily Grace (11), Seb Van Leest (11), Hayley Hallwood (12) and Juliette Ryan (15) of King's Somborne.

Young SADS runs drama workshops throughout the year in addition to staging productions such as 'Johnny and the Dead.' Anyone interested in participating should contact youngsads@yahoo.com. Young SADS is affiliated with Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society, which has been performing and promoting drama in the greater Stockbridge area since 1933.

The New Inn at Chilbolton

Prior to the opening of the New Inn (now the Abbot's Mitre) in the 1920's there was a New Inn on Chilbolton Common. This property is now a private residence. I have used census returns, directories and registers to find some information on the people who lived there from 1851 until 1901.

I do not know when the property on the Common became a public house but there is reference to 'a public house on the Common' in 1836 in an entry in the burial register. The 1841 census return is not easy to read and does

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not include the amount of detail contained in subsequent returns. There only appears to be two households recorded as 'on the Common' – the Pottecary family (occupation 'butcher') and the Mills family (occupation 'agricultural labourer'). In 1851 the Innkeeper 'on the Common' was William Cole (37) born in Wonston, together with his wife, Harriott (36) (formerly Tilbury), four of their children (Mary, 9; Harriott, 7; Edward, 5 and Caroline, 2) and three lodgers (John Prangell (66), labourer; Edmund Roofe (Rolfe) (38), farm labourer and George Young (60), farm labourer). William and Harriott's eldest child, William (10), was included on the census with his grandparents George and Mary Tilbury. George's occupation was 'grocer'. The Cole and Tilbury families were well established in Chilbolton. William's father, James, was a farmer and in 1841 William was also a farmer, living in 'The Street', Chilbolton, with Harriett and son, William (aged 1). He changed his occupation to 'publican' sometime between June 1841, when the census was taken, and January 1842, when his daughter, Mary, was baptised. William Cole also appears as a victualler at the New Inn in White's 1859 Directory.

The 1861 census for 'The Common' shows William's occupation as a 'victualler'. In the household were his wife, Harriett, their five children (William, Mary, Harriett, Edward and Caroline) and Edmund Rolfe (their lodger who was a hurdle maker). By 1861 William Cole, junior, was a 'joiner's apprentice', Mary and Harriett were 'victualler's daughters' and Edward and Caroline were 'scholars'. On July 6th Mary Cole of 'New Inn', aged 19, was buried at Chilbolton. The family's time at the New Inn was coming to a close because William Cole, aged 48, was buried at Chilbolton on 5th April 1862. His son, William, was buried at Chilbolton on 27th March 1867, aged 26. Edward took up his father's profession and on the 1871 census he is shown as a 'licensed victualler' in Hayes, and his mother, Harriett, and sister, Caroline, were included at the same address.

It would appear that the next licensed victualler, Hatton Smooker, took over sometime between the death of William Cole and June 1864, when his daughter, Henrietta, was baptised at Chilbolton, his occupation being given as 'publican'. It was a change of occupation for him as on the 1861 census for Ampport his occupation is given as 'brick and lime burner'. In 1871 Hatton Smooker (45), born in South Stoneham, Hampshire appears with his wife Priscilla (38) and their seven children (William, 16, brewer's labourer; Stephen, 11; Alice, 9; Henrietta, 7; Hatton, 5; Edward, 2 and Annie aged 2 months). By 1881 two of the children had died - Annie, aged 13 months, in 1872 and William, aged nearly 18, in 1873. In 1873 another daughter, Louisa, was born and the New Inn was sold. It was described as 'The Old established and well

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accustomed Freehold Public House, containing Tap-room, Bar, Parlour, Kitchen, Cellar, Domestic Offices, five bedrooms, Stabling, Cart Shed, Yard, &c, in the occupation of Mr. H Smooker, as under tenant to Mr. William Tilbury, at a very nominal rental, on account of his being hitherto supplied with Beer and Spirits from the Chilbolton Brewery. N.B. – Possession can be had if required at Michaelmas next.’ I do not know who purchased the property but Hatton Smooker did not vacate that year and he is shown as a victualler at the New Inn in White’s 1878 Directory.

Hatton Smooker appears in 1881 as ‘publican’ with Priscilla and five children (Alice, Henrietta, who was a ‘pupil teacher’, Hatton, Edward and Louisa). Hatton was still at the New Inn in 1891 with Priscilla, son, Stephen, who was a gardener, daughter, Louise and grandson, George Langer aged 6. George was the son of Alice, who had married George Langer in 1883. Henrietta had also married in 1889. Louise died in 1891, followed by Priscilla in 1897. By 1901 Hatton Smooker was living in Chesterfield with his son, Edward and he died there in 1907.

Thomas Waterman (34) was the publican by 1901. He and his wife, Julia (40) were in the village in 1891, when his occupation was a carpenter. In 1901 his occupation was ‘carpenter & publican’ employed ‘on own account’ and working at home. Thomas and Julia’s two daughters, Flora (10) and Edith (8) also appear on the census. Julia died in 1916. In her book ‘Chilbolton – A Record of Our Time’, Eleanor Lockyer writes that Thomas Waterman was the last publican of the New Inn on the Common and on his retirement the property was sold at public auction in 1926, as a private residence and became ‘The Old Inn’.

Marion Gilmour



WHERWELL CHURCH STREET VILLAGE FETE

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOVELY VILLAGE

This years Village Church Fete on JUNE 12th, is depending on new members joining our loyal band of helpers. A MEETING IS TAKING PLACE IN Col.JENKINS VILLAGE HALL On TUESDAY 16th MARCH 7.30 – 8.30pm To co-ordinate Stalls, Prizes and setting up. We need to continue the excellent work that friends of this village who have contributed over the years. Come along and bring a friend. For more information call Claire Henderson 01264 720231 or email lucashenderson@btinternet.com



We have had a busy time at Pre-School this month. Even though the weather has been cold the children have still enjoyed playing outside on the bikes and seeing all the changes in the weather.

We have a little girl who comes from Denmark at the pre-school and her mum visited us to talk about Shrovetide, one of their celebrations. The children all helped decorate a barrel which is then filled with sweets and hit with a stick until it bursts open. The children all dressed up in their favourite costumes and really enjoyed themselves. The staff and parents learned a lot too.

Since Christmas the children have been using their imaginations and we have been talking lots about fairytales and traditional stories. This has lead to many great games with princesses, princes, knights and baddies!

If you have a child who is approaching pre-school age, please call and arrange a visit.

A relaxed, happy learning environment for children aged 2 years 9 months to school age. Come and see our beautiful rural setting. For more information, please contact Sam Inglis (07732095814).

Wherwell History Group



An Illustrated talk by
Sarah Lynes

THE RIVER ANTON CONSERVATION PROJECT

At
Colonel Jenkin's
Memorial Hall
Wherwell SP11 7JJ

Friday 19th March
at 8.00pm



All Welcome Admission £3.00
Tea/Coffee Biscuits available

The Wherwell History Group

The Methodist revival of religion reached Wherwell about 1816. The first chapel was sited in the Chalk Pit at Greenwich in cottages which were home to Elisabeth Inglefield and John Dugey. In 1818, Wherwell had 13 members and were part of an Andover Circuit with 204 members. In 1844, membership increased to 20, and to 30 a year later.

“The Wherwell services were made attractive by the efficient choir conducted by James Tovey, the younger. His was a magnetic personality, richly endowed with spiritual and musical gifts. He was a beautiful singer, an able conductor and a most acceptable local preacher, a great gift of God to the Society and the Circuit. Mr William Tovey was the leading instrumentalist and played clarinet. Mr R Smith played the violincello and other village musicians completed the orchestra. The harmonium of later days usually justifies its presence, but it does not take the place of a company of musicians like those of Wherwell.”

By the year 1846, the revived Society resolved to build a chapel. The way was not easy, as the local land owners were not likely to provide a site. Those earnest Methodists gave themselves to prayer that if God willed He would open a way, and He did. The Priory did not own quite all the land. Presently James Tovey and Charles Batt heard that some cottages in The Court, owned by a lady in Basingstoke, were for sale. Without mentioning their purpose, they went to Basingstoke and took enough money to pay the deposit on the purchase. Their errand was successful; Mr Batt bought the cottages. In the meantime, steps had been taken to circumvent the expected opposition. They pulled down the Chalkpit chapel and dug foundations; thereby allowing the village to believe that a new chapel would be built on the same site; until the Conveyance was completed and the new site made secure. This caused a great stir among village people and opposing powers explored every possible means to wrest possession from Mr Batt. He was offered double the price, and when bribery failed the opposition resorted to threats, but in vain. Mr Tovey and his friends paid Mr Batt £100 for the two cottages near the street, the others were sold in order to repay a mortgage. The new chapel was licensed for worship on 31st October 1846.

The opposition could not prevent the Methodists building a house of worship, but they remained powerful and made life difficult for those involved. Mr Tovey and family received a notice to leave their house, and as none other could be obtained in the village, they moved initially to Longparish and then to Charlton and again to Salisbury. Charles Batt was the Priory blacksmith. He was dismissed, and not finding home or employment emigrated to Canada (after many years abroad he did return to Wherwell). When these two pillars of the Society left Wherwell, their enemies hoped that local Methodism would die out, but they were proved wrong.

In 1887, there was a fine team of men and women to maintain the Methodist witness, including Trustees:

The Sunday School Anniversary was the great occasion of the year; every boy had

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a new suit and every girl wore a new frock – often provided by their families at great self-sacrifice. Both teachers and pupils took a particular interest in the collection; the ‘summer treat’ was dependant on the amount raised.

Fast-forward to 1946 ... *“the ‘Temple of His Grace’ stands today where the fathers built it in the main street. Once again it calls for the loving generosity and devotion of its children. The roof should be renewed, the structure needs an overhaul and renovation. To this end we ask our friends to give £1 for every year of its history. Our members are few, not more than there were in 1816, but we are not discouraged. What prophetic eye perceived in 1816 and 1846, the grand harvest of the hundred years so gloriously mixed with devotion, persecution and success. We dare believe that what God has done once He can do again if we are faithful. In His name we go forward, believing the best is yet to be.”*

Andrew Flanagan

The text above has been extracted from “This Temple of His Grace” - a booklet published in 1946 celebrating the centenary of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in High Street, Wherwell. This booklet was collated by Rev. B. R. K. Paintin, printed by Holmes & Sons (Andover) and priced One Shilling. **The History Group is always pleased to be given or loaned similar publications or photographs for our archives.**

Chilbolton Parish Council News

The Parish Council meeting on 2 February was lively enough but did not produce any new material. It was more a case of moving a number of initiatives forward, however one matter dominated discussion. I refer to how we should prepare for and handle severe winter conditions. As promised in the February magazine, Cllr Gossling, our Amenities Officer has written a short piece which covers the subject and which is to be found elsewhere in this magazine.

The Children’s Play Area project took a major step forward with three possible sites being considered, including one – within the footprint of the Abbots Mitre – which has not previously been considered. Apart from these, Cllrs are looking at equipment and surfaces, insurance and funding and how best to involve the whole community in the project.

A meeting with the Highways Engineer established that Chilbolton was on the list of parishes with urgent outstanding work, but demand is currently exceeding Hampshire County Council’s ability to satisfy. Included in this is the surface water dispersal system, including Frog Lane, Cart Lane, Old Pond Green and the foot of Joys Lane, to ensure that the village will not be troubled if faced with heavy rains. At the moment, the water table and river flows are about average for the time of year.

Maintenance work on Cow Common has continued with fencing work on the southwest boundary and a major exercise in scrub clearance.

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This latter task has, perhaps, been neglected over the years and is calling for a major effort, not least in the disposal of the debris.

Within the next month, the administration of the Allotments will call for attention. If you have a yearning to sample the Good Life through an allotment, now is the time to contact the Parish Clerk (860385).

Finally, have you visited the village website recently? (www.chilbolton.com) Cllr Crisp has put in some serious work updating it and would welcome feedback.

The Council will meet next on Tuesday 2nd March, in the Durnford Room as usual.

Jeremy Baines Chairman Chilbolton PC

Chilbolton & Wherwell Wildlife

The weather remained quite cold throughout January and into February, and this has had its effect on wildlife. This has been very noticeable in our gardens, with Long-tailed Tits still coming to feeders in parties of up to a dozen, though in milder winters they've split up into pairs by mid-February. In my own garden, there have been up to twenty Reed Buntings compared with the more usual three or four. But cold weather affects different species in different ways. I ran a moth-trap on one night in early February and was intrigued to see a Mottled Umber moth attracted to the light. This is a species that emerges in October and is not normally seen much after December. But with no nights warm enough to fly since before Christmas, this individual apparently survived in perfect condition right through to a slightly milder night in February.

Further afield, I've been interested to see whether a cold winter would bring increased numbers of Golden Plover to the district. Thirty years ago it was not unusual for there to be several thousands of these birds near Middle Wallop, but in recent mild winters there have rarely been more than a few hundred. The experts suggest that the birds are simply not migrating quite so far as they used to. This winter I did see 300 on one occasion prior to the snow, but my overall impression is that the single cold winter has made little difference to what may be a long-term change in Golden Plovers' migratory behaviour.

Another species that used to occur in much larger numbers, is the Snipe. During the period of snow and ice, more Snipe did appear in the valley, resorting to unfrozen margins of the river - including on Chilbolton Common. As you may have noticed, the parish council has recently been clearing willow scrub from one such wet area. This helps to maintain the important flora of the boggy margins, and stops the drying-out and eventual development of woodland. Of course, the cut logs and brash also had to be removed from the wet area; pieces of willow simply re-grow when left in water! But we are fortunate that much of the debris could be used nearby, to build an otter holt in a quiet corner of the Common. Both the scrub clearance and the otter holt construction are required and funded by Natural England, as part of the Environmental Stewardship agreement for the Common.

Glynne Evans (hantsbto@hotmail.com)

Latest Energy News

In my last article in September 2009 I promised some of your readers who came to see our system that I would keep them posted of further Government assistance on the renewable energy front. First we had a consultation on renewable energy which ended in July 2009 but, from previous experience with the DOE ,DTI et al ,I was less than optimistic about what our new DECC and their political masters would come up with. We all sat through the consultation process last summer and awaited the outcome of the consultation exercise

Of course it was all clouded by the Copenhagen fiasco which seems to have been hijacked by global warming issues coupled with doubts about the numbers: which miraculously came out just before the conference. Those of us who are primarily concerned about Energy Costs and Availability regard this as a side show and I personally believe that whether global warming is cause by our activities or not we still need to conserve energy and use it in the most efficient way.

If the globe is warming due to our activities then saving and using energy efficiently must be a step in the right direction. If it is not : then at least we will save ourselves some money as the world gets hotter.

Its no good burying our head in the sand and hoping it will all blow over. We all know the world's resources are finite; demand is growing exponentially; if we keep on using the resources at the present rate we will pay an ever higher price from whatever unstable political regime controls the supply :if we can get it at all. The only plentiful supply of energy we have is coal but we have signed up to a protocol which prevents us using it, without employing as yet unproven and certainly costly carbon capture and storage (CC&S)facilities. Either way the price of energy is going to increase.

UK PLC faces the possibility of power cuts in 2/3 years time as old coal fired power stations are phased out and the replacements cannot be built unless they incorporate CC&S. It really is too late for all this political wringing of hands; because if industry's demand for energy grows as we come out of recession where is it to come from.?

Given all this it will not come as a surprise that HMG has recently been forced to back Nuclear Generation but you must judge whether even this is not too late to meet the expected shortfall.

There some promising tidal generation projects around the coast but as yet still just more talk about the Severn Barrage: besides major grid works are needed to get "big" generation to where it is need. So what are our strategists proposing? Generate Electricity locally;

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Use it yourself or spill some off to your neighbours; The existing distribution system will not need to be altered as it is carrying the load already.

More capacity will be available for industry if we take care of our own needs. Nobody can cut you off or increase the price you pay for energy

I have attached the two pieces of information from leading experts in their respective fields who could guide you through the maze without the need for expensive consultants

Jim Dunne

Additional Information is available on Feed In Tariffs at

www.southernsolar.co.uk and heat pumps at www.iceenergy.co.uk

Book Review - “Sweet Offerings” by Chan Ling Yap

This first novel by an established non-fiction author, Chin Ling Yap, is an absorbing account of a Malaysian Chinese family from the 1930’s to the 1960’s.

The story is interwoven with Malaysian history of the period, which covers World War II and the fearsome Japanese occupation. The tensions between the different ethnic groups as Malaya recovers from the war and changes forever, are both understandable and familiar!

It is easy to identify with the main characters and the complex emotions and evolving relationships within a polygamous family are portrayed with sensitivity and compassion. From a position of complete subordination, the women gradually become more emancipated and discover hidden strengths. This is a book that draws you in and leaves you wanting more – I hope there will be a sequel! In the meantime,

“Sweet Offerings” is my choice for Wherwell Book Group for June. Chan Ling Yap was a fascinating guest speaker at a recent Red Garter meeting.

Pam Flanagan

Going a-Mothering ?

It was about this time last year when we had one of our more unusual phone calls at the Rectory. “Please can you send me some Chilbolton Wafers for Mothering Sunday?” came the request. Of course, we’d only been here about eight months at that point and I had no idea what Chilbolton Wafers were or where to find them. So began my research into Chilbolton Wafers.

Eleanor Lockyer’s book was fantastic as it explained all about the tradition of Chilbolton wafers and all about the Baverstock tongs. I had many long phone calls with the folk at the Andover Museum who were very helpful and I looked at newspaper cuttings and photos kept at Horseshoe Cottage. Then after a few months of the trail “going cold”, we were put in touch with Mr. Will Poore, a member of the Baverstock family who grew up in the village, and were able to ask him about the Baverstock tongs. Not only was he able to tell us all about them – he showed them to us! I was amazed to see them and handle them – they were surprisingly heavy. It was such a thrill to be holding such an important piece of Chilbolton history.

Now the secret receipt (recipe) for the wafers had been lost. Will’s Aunt Tilly was the last member of the family to make any wafers and she took the secret of the receipt to the grave with her. However, once you start researching something it’s amazing what you find. I shared the problem with Sue Batchelor, our choir-leader, and she unearthed a most interesting book of medieval cookery. We were so surprised to find an entire chapter on Waffles and Wafers. The book described how wafers were made, when they were eaten and some of the traditions around wafers. Apparently wafers were listed in the items for the archbishop’s feast held as early as 1295 and Cardinal Wolsey was so fond of wafers he employed two waferers in his private wafery. The book also described the irons used to make wafers. The irons, or tongs, consisted of two flat discs that were incised (embossed) with different patterns on the inside surface of each and that there were two handles about 2 ½ feet long. One handle usually ended in a knob and the other in a ring which slipped over the knob of the handle so that the discs could be held tightly together with the batter between them. It seemed to us that they were describing the Baverstock tongs exactly.

With new-found confidence, encouraged by the book, and using one of the ancient receipts, Sue and I made our first wafers. They looked disgusting, very black with the dirt of ages! Subsequent wafers, however, started to come out really nicely. We’ve experimented with different receipts, different spices, different cooking times and we now feel we are getting the hang of it. One of the funny things that took us by surprise is that on occasions when I closed the tongs, especially if they were very hot, or perhaps when I closed them too quickly, the wafers seemed to ‘sing’! (As the air escapes there is a high pitched noise – for the

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less poetic amongst us). When I first mentioned this phenomenon to Will he wasn't sure he had ever heard it but his older sister Evelyn could remember as a child hearing that distinctive sound when she saw the wafers being made.

Now the race is on to produce enough wafers to revive this ancient tradition in time for Mothering Sunday on the 14th March.

Ros Rason at The Rectory (One of Chilbolton's unofficial waferers).

Eleanor Lockyer's book, *Chilbolton Fragments*, p69, shows a fantastic picture of the tongs and explains the meaning of the letters to be found on one disc. One disc is embossed with the letters I.S. – Jesus Salvator (L) Jesus the Saviour. The other disc has a central 8 pointed flower. Interestingly the circular tracery pattern on the two discs marry up, so when you hold a wafer up to the light you can see the circles on one side of the wafer are in the same place as those on the other side. What workmanship!

For those keen to do a bit of research of their own, try feeding 'Medieval Wafering Tongs' and 'Medieval Wafer Recipes' into your search-engine and see what comes up. Sue's "Old Cookery Notebook" written by Mrs Groundes-Peace contains lots of useful information including pictures of wafering tongs of the sixteenth century



Invitation to Mothering Sunday

At St. Mary-the-less we are very pleased to announce that on the 14th March, we will be distributing wafers cooked using the original Baverstock tongs during the 10am Mothering Sunday service.

Please come along to celebrate this important occasion with us as we revive this ancient tradition in Chilbolton after a break of fifty years.



MIDDAY MUMS.....

Middy Mums is held in the Wherwell Village Hall every third Monday in the month. We had a wonderful number of Mums and children last half term. This month it will be Monday 15th March from 12.30. We look forward to seeing you, come with or without children and meet other Mums from the area. Also could you bring along something to share for lunch.

Susan Ansell 01264 860775

Chilbolton WI Report

The January Meeting of Chilbolton WI was cancelled due to the weather and the speaker being unable to come. Our first meeting of 2010 took place at Wherwell Village Hall on Tuesday 16th February. Dennis Bright (who is well known to us) gave an excellent illustrated talk on 'Waterways and Halcyon Days' showing us lovely photographs of wildlife along the Itchen Navigation including many beautiful kingfishers. Also on 16th February, four members attended the pancake coffee morning held at Lockerly and East Dene WI, which is always a n enjoyable occasion.

The Danebury Group spring meeting is on 1st March in Upper Clatford.

Chilbolton Group meeting is 16th March where Lynette Moss will talk about 'Fun in Foreign Fields'.

District and County Councillors

Wherwell: Cllr Jim Neal

Chilbolton: Cllr Peter Boulton

County: Cllr Andrew Gibson