

Chilbolton and Wherwell Community Magazine

I recently returned home from some time away from Wherwell and, as I parked outside my house to unpack the boot, a dear neighbour walked up Church Street with a bucket full of snowdrops in her hand for our back garden. This signalled clearly to me the arrival of spring. No surprise then the vernal flavour of this month's magazine with three pages dedicated to gardens and gardening.

Easter is, of course, a key focus in this magazine – a time of reflection. Revd Juliet Montague observes how we can become locked into a lifestyle that prevents us from seeing the world around us. Dennis Potter once said: *'if you see the present tense, boy do you see it! And boy can you celebrate it.'* With so much happening around us now that Spring is here, it is the perfect time to get out there and enjoy the beauty around us. Why not Beat the Bounds (page 9) or explore the Test Valley Woods (Page 29)? Whatever you are doing over the holiday period, I wish you a relaxing and peaceful time.

David Wright

Thank you to Sue Blazdell, Tessa Youell, David Wright and Euan Ramsay who produced this month's magazine and to Ed Treadwell 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:

Chilbolton		
Funeral	5 Jan	Emily Holloway
Wherwell		
Burial of Ashes	9 Feb	Moira Martin

Apologies from the Magazine Team

Sincerely apologies to the Benefice and any reader looking for the Church Services in last months' Magazine. These were accidentally omitted from the final copy. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

The Magazine Team

Church Services April 2010					
	St Mary the Less Chilbolton	St Mary's Crawley	St Catherine's Littleton	St Stephen's Sparsholt	St Peter & Holy Cross Wherwell
Thursday 1st April Maundy Thursday					
Agape with Supper	7.00 pm				
HC with vigil				8.00 pm	
Friday 2nd April Good Friday					
Easter Garden		10.30 am			
Meditation	With Wherwell		12.00 pm		13.45 pm
Saturday 3rd April					
House Communion			10.00 am		
Easter Garden	10.00 am		10.00 am		
Sunday 4th April Easter Day					
Holy Communion		8.00 am			
Family Communion	10.00 am		10.00 am	10.00 am	
Holy Communion					10.00 am
Easter Morning Worship		10.00 am			
Service of Peace & Healing			6.00 pm		
Wednesday 7th April					
Holy Communion			9.30 am		
Westholme Service			2.30 pm		
Sunday 11th April Second Sunday of Easter					
Holy Communion				8.00 am	
Morning Prayer	10.00 am				
Family Communion with Sunday School		10.00 am			
Family Communion			10.00 am		
Welcome Worship				10.00 am	
Wherwell Sunday School					4.00 pm
Evening Communion					6.00 pm
Wednesday 14th April					
Holy Communion			9.30am		
Sunday 18th April The Third Sunday of Easter					
Holy Communion		8.00 am			
Family Communion			10.00 am		
Family Service					10.00 am
CW Holy Communion	10.00 am				
Matins				10.00 am	
Wednesday 21st April					
Holy Communion	10.30 am		9.30 am		
Thursday 22nd April					
Flowerdown HC			2.30 pm		
Sunday 25th April The Fourth Sunday of Easter					
Holy Communion					8.00 am
Family Service	10.00 am				
Family Communion			10.00 am	10.00 am	
4 th Sunday Worship with Sunday School		10.00 am			

Wednesday 28th April					
Holy Communion			9.30 am		
Meditation			7.00 pm		
Saturday 1st May					
House Communion			10.00 am		
Sunday 2nd May The Fifth Sunday of Easter					
Holy Communion	8.00 am		8.00 am		
All Age Worship			10.00 am		
Family Communion				10.00 am	
Matins with HC					10.00 am
Morning Worship		10.00 am			
Evensong	6.00 pm				
Service of Peace & Healing			6.00 pm		

Pause for Thought

The Rectory Littleton

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this we shall be in the season of Easter, and hopefully spring will be with us after a long and cold winter.

The language of Easter is a mystery to many people, and even Christians can find the idea of ‘resurrection’ a difficult concept. We are aware of the resurrection of Christ after his crucifixion 2000 years ago, and we should all remember that if he was not raised from the dead, not only was he no use to us, but he was at best deluded, and at worst an arrogant fraud. We cannot simply say that he was a good man who could work miracles, because he saw himself as the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy, as the Messiah who was to come. So if we accept that Jesus was resurrected in the past, then we might also accept his promise of resurrection in the future for us, the idea of a life to come.

Speculation about the nature of such a life stretches our imagination to its limits, if you imagine trying to explain to an unborn child what life will be like outside the womb you can quickly see that you might get no further than saying ‘your umbilical cord will be cut’, before the baby would say ‘in that case I’d rather stay here thank you!’ We cannot imagine the life to come any more than the baby could imagine life outside the womb, but the fact that we cannot imagine it does not mean that it cannot be.

But resurrection is not confined to the past and the future, it is a present opportunity as well. Often, almost without thinking, we can become trapped in an existence which diminishes us, deadening our minds and bodies with a punishing work regime, poisoning our bodies with toxic substances, scarcely

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noticing the world around us so that its beauty passes us by, and forgetting to value the people who are closest to us. It has nothing to do with our circumstances, I have met elderly, frail people who radiate a zest for life, and I have known fit young men who are tired of life. To experience the resurrection in this life we need to live fully in the present, not hankering to be somewhere else, or someone else, not killing time until something better comes along, not just living for the next holiday. If we think about it, we all have moments of resurrection experience – they are the times of deepest joy which we wish could last forever.

The Rev'd Francis Kilvert, a priest in the latter half of the 19th century, wrote of such a moment:

I rose early and went out into the fresh, brilliant morning, between six and seven o'clock. The sun had already risen some time, but the grass was still white with the hoar frost. I walked across the common in the bright sunny quiet empty morning, listening to the rising of the lark as he went up in an ecstasy of song into the blue unclouded sky and gave in his Easter morning hymn at Heaven's Gate. Then came the echo and answer of earth as the Easter bells rang out their joy peals from the church towers all round. It was very sweet and lovely, the bright silent sunny morning, and the lark rising and singing alone in the blue and then suddenly the morning air all alive with music of sweet bells ringing for the joy of the resurrection. 'The Lord is risen' smiled the sun, 'The Lord is risen' sang the lark. And the church bells in their joyous pealing answered from tower to tower, 'He is risen indeed'.

It is moments like these that bring resurrection into our own lives, and surely give us a glimpse of the kingdom of heaven.

*With love in Christ,
Juliet Montague*



CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

Thank you for your willing help last year & I hope you will continue with your support this year. If you wish to change your turn please arrange your own relief, or contact Jo Baughen.

Wherwell Dates

17th & 24th April
1st & 8th May

Mrs. Baughen
Mrs. Horne

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



Post Easter Forum



Following the high level of interest shown in last year's pre Lent forums, we are running three more, this time after Easter. There has been a tendency in the church to concentrate on the New Testament at the expense of the Old, so if you would like to understand more about the relationship between the two Testaments, then 'The Old Testament as a basis for the New Testament' will definitely interest you. Do you think that Hell is an outdated concept? Does it have any value for us today, and what can we know of Heaven? Join us to consider those issues and more at 'Heaven and Hell'. While in the last of the series we shall be looking at what our duty to God might be, and what he might expect of us.

The evenings will take the form of a presentation followed by plenty of opportunity for questions and debate, do come and join us.

The following dates have been set to hold the Post Easter Forums and will be open for all to attend:

- 30th April - 'Old Testament as basis for New Testament' at Crawley Church room, 7.30pm
- 5th May - 'Heaven & Hell' at Crawley Church room, 7.30pm
- 20th May - 'England expects everyman to do his duty – what does God expect?' at Littleton Church room, 7.30pm

Wafers for all

A bright, crisp, sunny morning saw people flocking to pack the church on Mothering Sunday. Families arrived with small children, ready to renew their baptismal vows. Regular worshippers, and others who are not regulars but were intrigued by Ros Rason's article in the magazine last month, filled the pews. The spiced scent of wafers drifted in the air. Then ten members of the Baverstock family, representing their extended family, made their entrance, bearing the famous wafering-tongs.

Those who had been baptised in the church came forward to renew their vows by re-lighting baptismal candles. The youngest was only a few months old, the eldest was Evelyn, a Baverstock baptised here over eighty years ago. The address, given by Stuart, involved the children and explained the symbolism of baptism.

Then the Baverstocks presented the Church with the wafering-tongs which had been in their family for hundreds of years, and were thanked on behalf of the PCC and congregation by Churchwarden, Mrs Jane Spence.

Everyone was invited up to receive their fragile, spiced wafer. These had been made over a number of weeks by Ros Rason and Sue Batchelor. Some ate them immediately, others carried them carefully away.

After coffee and cakes, some went home, but many stayed on, and were fascinated to hear from Will, Evelyn and Phyllis, all members of the Baverstock family, of life in Chilbolton during the war years, and of what they could remember of their grandmother's wafering. Like us, she had used her front-room fire, on which she burned logs. She always insisted on being alone to make them, so she could concentrate on their 'singing', which was all-important in knowing whether they were cooked or not. Her rate of turning them out at one-a-minute stunned us. We took two hours to make seventeen!

Young Charlotte Hall listened with rapt concentration to all that was said. When they got home, she was asked by her mother when she was going to eat her wafer. Charlotte replied that she was not going to eat it; she was going to keep it to show her grandchildren that she had been there when the tradition had started again.

Sue Batchelor



Please spare a little time to help with Chilbolton Church cleaning

Our 'rota members' have been helping with church cleaning for many years and one or two now need a break. Could you help to fill a gap? It is nothing too strenuous or time consuming, but is very necessary to keep our lovely church in good condition. If you would like to help our team, please phone Deb. Richardson (861082) for a chat. We would all be most grateful.

Parish of St Peter & Holy Cross, Wherwell

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the Church
on Thursday 22nd April 2010 at 7.30 p.m.**
(with refreshments at 7.00 p.m.)

For the election of Parochial representatives of the laity as follows:-

To the Parochial Church Council: 12 representatives

To the Deanery Synod: 2 representatives

For the appointment of Sidesmen and the Independent Examiner

For the consideration of:

- a) a Report on changes in the roll since the last annual parochial church meeting;
- b) an Annual Report on the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally;
- c) the Financial Statements of the Council for the year ending on the 31st December immediately preceding the meeting independently examined;
- d) a Report upon the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church
- e) a Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod;
- f) any other matters of parochial or general Church interest.

All persons whose names are entered upon the Church Electoral Roll of the parish (and such persons only) are entitled to vote at the election of parochial representatives of the laity.

St Mary-the-Less Chilbolton

You are invited to the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

To be held in St Mary-the-Less Church on

Wednesday 28th April 2010

The meeting begins at 7.30pm

All residents of Chilbolton Parish are most welcome to attend and to vote in the election of Churchwardens. **Church Electoral Roll Members** are eligible to elect members of the Parochial Church Council.

(If you have not yet completed a Church Electoral Roll Form, they are still available in Church)

Witnessing Reality

Living Under Occupation



MONDAY 17TH MAY
7.30PM
ST. MICHAELS,
WEST ANDOVER

A presentation by Miranda Pinch, who works for Quaker Peace and Social Witness as an Ecumenical Accompanier serving on the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). Miranda has recently returned from the Occupied Territories where she was working as a human rights activist and advocate based in Hebron.



Beating the Bounds

Wherwell

Sunday 25th April

Meet at Wherwell Village Hall at 10.00 am

A four mile cross-country walk around the village (short cuts are available) providing a splendid opportunity to see the bluebells on the edge of the forest. The Southern Shires bloodhounds will accompany us during part of the walk (so please be prepared to keep your dog on a lead) before finishing back at the hall for a choice of tasty soups & fresh crusty bread

Entry £2 pp

All proceeds to the Village Hall improvements fund

Chilbolton Parish Council News

Road safety is the first topic this month. Your Council has acquired notices which will be affixed to wheelie bins as a reminder of the need for speed restraint through the village. Please do whatever you can to see these enforced before we have a nasty accident.

In last month's article, there was reference to grit boxes to supplement the work which the County Council do in keeping roads open in harsh winter conditions. We have heard encouraging remarks from Highways which should result in us having them available in time for next year. Complementing this, arrangements are in hand for the clearance of ditches, streams and culverts, possibly using our own lengthsman, as that scheme is due to start in April as a trial.

Developers pay a sum for improvements to leisure facilities, known as Sect 106 funds. We have found the qualifications too exact for us to get these funds released. This must be the case across the Borough, for our MP Sandra Gidley has written to many parishes seeking their experience. We now await whatever emerges as a result of her interest.

A draft of a new Vision Document has been produced by Cllr Gossling, which declares our aspirations for future projects. He is seeking comments and reaction from the village at large, so if you have an interest in such matters, please contact him.

The Play Area project continues and is discussed in an article by Cllr Picco elsewhere in this magazine. Quite separately, an adventure play feature and herb garden is planned for the pre-school community near the Hall.

The fences on Cow Common have been replaced under the guidance of Cllr Rowles, and an otter holt has been installed. We will shortly be putting out the signs calling for restraint in exercising dogs on the Common, which now becomes even more necessary. Please do your part in enforcing them.

Finally, the directional signs to Stonefield Park are now in place. Hopefully they will help to keep heavy vehicles away from the village.

Your Council next meets on Tue 6 April at 8 pm in the Durnford Room of the Village Hall.

Jeremy Baines



Women's World Day of Prayer

Many thanks to all helped at the above service and provided the excellent refreshments. Dawn Williams from Longstock played the organ and this promoted some wonderful singing. I understand that you all enjoyed the service and we look forward to meeting in Wherwell next year.

Chilbolton Play Space Project Update

Since the questionnaire towards the end of last year, on whether the village wanted a play space for children, we have been busy doing the necessary research into what is required. As you can imagine there are government rules and regulations for these things which we needed to consider.

Our biggest hurdle has been to find a suitable site on which to put the play space as the Parish does not own one that meets the government set criteria. We evaluated all the questionnaire locations and many more, following the government pre-defined criteria. While doing this we were approached by the new landlord of the Abbots Mitre (Sam) as he had heard about our land problem. He suggested that the owners of the pub (Enterprise Inns) might be sympathetic to our needs so with his assistance we approached them. They proved very positive and supportive, and on evaluation, the proposed site hit a lot of the required boxes. It also provided a much larger site with more scope for equipment covering a wider age range than the other preferred location at the village hall.

At the Parish Council meeting in March it was agreed to open formal negotiations with Enterprise Inns in order to lease a piece of land from them for a play space. At the same time other members of the council are heading up areas looking at equipment, play surfaces, funding and insurance. We are also looking at ongoing maintenance costs to make sure that we can support the equipment once it is installed. We will be looking to get the opinions of children on the types of equipment they like, to ensure we put something in that our children want to play on.

To support us on the Parish Council we have pulled in the help of a number of people within the village who expressed an interest during the questionnaire, in helping with the project. This is proving invaluable and if anyone feels they have experience to offer then do please get in touch with me, we see this very much as a community project.

Over the coming months I will write further articles for the magazine to keep you up to date on where we are with the project.

*Cllr Gwen Picco Tel 860214 (evenings)
Project Manager for the Play Space Project*

Annual Fun Run

This will be the 4th annual Fun Run at the Wherwell Playing fields. For those of you who want to get in training, the good news you have plenty of time. This year the event will be on Sunday 16th May. Check out the web for further information. www.wherwellfunrun.com Claire Rowles

WHERWELL PARISH COUNCIL

You may wonder why there is sometimes no report from Wherwell PC in the magazine. With a population of approximately 426 Wherwell is considered a small parish and therefore only meets every two months. There is often little of significance to report in the months when we have not had a meeting. At our last meeting however we certainly had plenty to discuss and to report back on.

We share concerns with local residents that there will, eventually no doubt, be a serious accident caused by cars parked too close to the blind bend on the approach from the High Street to the Mill Lane/ Fullerton Road junction. We know how difficult it is to park in the area but how will you live with your conscience if it is your parked vehicle that causes that accident?

We are very pleased that the work on the new playground at the Playing Fields is progressing so well and nearing completion.

The PC has no objections to the planning application to convert the detached garage at Riverside House, Fullerton Road into a garden room/studio or to the proposed internal alterations to Windwhistle Cottage, Winchester Road and for the application to carry out tree works at The Mowle House, High Street.

Residents of both Chant Close and Beech Grove have concerns regarding potholes. However, as both these roads are unadopted, Testway Housing is responsible for them and in the first instance the residents should inform them of their concerns.

Regarding the allocation of social housing in the village anyone interested in applying for a property in the future must first be registered with TVBC who process all applications on a points system.

District Councillor Jim Neal has been asked to request that the litter on the A3057 be cleared up. In response to our concern about the ongoing problem with mud on the A3057 Cllr Neal has reported back to us that infilling on the site adjacent to the Hampshire Golf Club is to cease as the agreed infill quota has been fulfilled.

It has been agreed that, subject to cost, a model of the cockatrice will be mounted on the Colonel Jenkins' Hall roof.

We have, once again, very kindly been given a quantity of snowdrops to be planted on various sites in and around the village.

County Cllr Andrew Gibson has informed us that an audit of local transport is being undertaken to see if the transport available can be better utilised. He is also looking into the contract specifications and quality of

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highways' work that is carried out on behalf of HCC.

The lack of progress regarding the provision of a footpath from Chant Close around the front of the White Lion is frustrating but we are hopeful that this much needed path will eventually be built.

A grant application has been made to HCC to fund the production of map leaflets which will contain information on several local walks and also for three map boards to be sited in the village, by the Longbridge and in Fullerton.

We are also applying for funding to clear the undergrowth which is obstructing part of the old railway/river bridge on the Testway between Fullerton and Testcombe. We hope then to site a rustic bench on the bridge looking down the river and one on the nearby riverbank overlooking the water meadows. Work has recently been carried out in this area to improve the surface of the Testway. In the future some scalplings are to be provided to improve the level of the track and to facilitate drainage.

We are pleased that James Liddell of Fullerton Farms has kindly agreed that, subject to safety checks, the path from Fullerton Station Yard to Coreys Lane, which goes under the A3057 and over the old railway bridge across the River Anton, will soon be designated as a Permissive Right of Way.

It is irritating to report so far, in spite of a continuing dialogue with call centres overseas, little progress has been made to improve the O2 and Vodafone mobile phone reception in the village.

Richard Rowles who runs the Wherwell website www.wherwell.net has agreed to make the PC information easier to locate on the site.

As in the past an additional PC meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th April to finalise business at the end of our financial year prior to our AGM on Tuesday 11th May. Both meetings commence at 7.00pm in the Colonel Jenkins' Hall.

Jane Andrews. Tel: 860635 email: flyjohnandrews@aol.com



Wherwell Cricket Club are looking for volunteers

All you need to have is six hours training, for which the club will arrange payment, and be able to commit a couple of hours a week **max**. The Role of the **Welfare Officer** is to ensure that the club is following the relevant procedures to safeguard the kids in our growing youth section. We are also looking for a **Junior Section Coordinator**.

Chilbolton Village Hall

I mentioned one of our fund raising ventures in last month's article - easyfundraising.org.uk. This site is free to the user and very simple to use when shopping on line, all the major retailers are listed and are pleased to donate a percentage of your purchase price to the Village Hall. Another very successful activity was our recent Jumble Sale, which generated about £530 for the Hall, and my thanks go to Beryl Lawrence and her team for making the event such fun and so worthwhile.

As to the future, we shall be launching a "100's" Club in a couple of months. This is a very common way of involving residents, or any group of people, in a regular prize draw where half the membership ticket price is returned to the participants and the other half retained by the Hall. We shall be knocking on your door in the near future, so do please sign up when approached.

Keen-eyed Hall users will have noticed that the shrubs and flower beds are being cut back and tidied up – Thank you, Peter. Shortly, the Horticultural Club will contribute their expertise with an extensive planting scheme. If any villagers wish to donate plants perhaps they might contact Debbie Richardson (861082). The other exciting news is that we are establishing an herb garden for the Pre-School children together with a vegetable patch. It is felt the children should have a good understanding of the way in which the food they eat is grown together with flavours and smells of herbs.

A reminder - the Sunday morning walks will be resuming on the 11th April, commencing at 10.30am from the Village Hall. This year's first stroll will last for about two hours and will head for Chilbolton Common, Redhill and the Fullerton Loop – Dogs Welcome.

Finally, I must pay tribute to Maria Watson who, having served for five years, has just retired from active participation on the Management Committee. Her wise counsel will be missed at meetings but she promises to keep in touch with our activities. Thank you Maria for everything you have done for us and the Village.

John Temple, Chairman



FILMS IN CHILBOLTON

Our next film show will be on Friday, 7th May, 2010. We do not yet know what the film will be, but there will be notices all around the villages and flyers will be distributed as usual - please look out for them.

We hope you will be able to join us on **this** occasion!

Chilbolton Village Hall Management Committee

Wherwell Auction of Promises

8th May



We have some great promises for you!

Wherwell Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30 pm start

From weekend breaks in Swanage and the Brecon Beacons, river garden fun, a website, Wherwell bed & breakfast to a day's fishing and casting lessons, cakes, babysitting and much, much more!

A great social evening:

Three course supper and 2 bottles of wine per table plus bring your own!

Only £6 per ticket (£50 per table of 10)

Please make this event a success and come along!

Tickets are sold at the White Lion, Wherwell and the Chilbolton shop. For table reservations call Anna Lipa on 860879 or e-mail Wherwell@f2s.com.

If you cannot make it to the Auction on 8th May, please support us by posting your bids. Auction Catalogues and reply cards are available at the White Lion, Wherwell, the Chilbolton shop or the Wherwell website: www.wherwell.net

We are raising funds for the church roof, tower and spire on top of our annual running costs. The roof project will cost an estimated £280,000. With English Heritage grants totalling £153k, our own restricted fabric funds, and a successful start to our fundraising, this leaves us with at least £25k to find. This Auction is therefore an essential part of our fundraising effort.

Dates for your Diary

April

3 rd	Wherwell coffee morning	WVH	10.30am
4 th	Longstock Watergardens		2-5pm
6 th	Chilbolton Parish Council	CVH	8pm
7 th	Horticultural Soc Spring Flower Show, AGM, talk on Longstock Water Gardens	CVH	
11 th	Sunday walk	CVH	10.30am
11 th	Daffodil Sunday at Binley		2-5pm
13 th	Wherwell Parish Council	WVH	7pm
14 th	Andover museum loft singers - The Lights, Andover		7.30pm
16 th	Wherwell History Group – researching your family history	WVH	8pm
18 th	French market, Stockbridge		10-4pm
19 th	Midday Mums	WVH	12.30pm
22 nd	Winchester mencap bridge tea, Waverley, Sleepers Hill		2.30-5.30pm
22 nd	APCM Wherwell - St Peter&Holy Cross Church		7 for 7.30pm
24 th	Test Valley Brass youth band – barn dance and supper	CVH	7pm
24 th	Test Valley woodlands in spring talk	CVH	
24 th	Plant sale – Appleshaw		10-12am
25 th	Beating the bounds	WVH	10am
27 th	Wherwell Wives meeting	WVH	8pm
28 th	APCM Chilbolton - St Mary-the-less Church		7.30pm

May

2 nd	Longstock Watergardens		
8 th	Auction of Promises, Wherwell Village Hall		7.00pm
11 th	Wherwell Parish Council AGM	WVH	7.00pm
12 th	CPRE trip to Kew Gardens		
15 th	Wherwell School Spring Fete		11.30-2pm
16 th	Fun Run - Wherwell Playing Fields		



MIDDAY MUMS

On the first day of the Summer Term, Monday 19th April, come and join us in Wherwell Village Hall for a bring-and-share lunch from 12.30. Play, or catch up with friends, old and new after the holidays.

Look forward to seeing you there. *Susan Ansell 860775*

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA

Theatres:

06/04/10 to 24/04/10: **Low Pay? Don't Pay!** By Dario Fo. Performances at 7.30pm (Mon-Wed), 2.30pm & 8pm (Thu & Sat), 8pm (Fri) at Salisbury Playhouse. Tickets £12-£19. Tel (01722) 320333 www.salisburyplayhouse.com

17/04/10: **Finding Alice.** Presented by A Single Leaf at 2pm at The Lights, Andover. Tickets £6-£7. Tel (01264) 368368 www.thelights.org.uk

20/04/10 to 24/04/10: **The Cemetery Club.** By Ivan Menchell. Presented by RAODS at Plaza Theatre, Romsey at 7.30pm. Tickets £9 (first night £7).

Tel (01794) 512987 www.plazatheatre.com

24/04/10: **Sing-a-long-a Rocky Horror Picture Show (12).** At The Lights at 7.45pm. Tickets £14.50-£15.50. Fancy dress not obligatory but highly recommended. Tel (01264) 368368 www.thelights.org.uk

27/04/10 to 01/05/10: **The Ministry of Fear.** By Graham Greene.

Performances at 7.30pm (matinees at 2.30pm on Thu & Sat) at Theatre Royal, Winchester. Age recommendation 14+. Tickets £18 (Tue to Thu), £20 (Fri & Sat) Tel (01962) 840440 www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk

Music:

13/04/10 to 17/04/10: **42nd Street.** Presented by Winchester Operatic Society at Theatre Royal, Winchester at 7.30pm (matinee 2.30pm Sat). Tickets £14.50. Tel (01962) 840440 www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk

17/04/10: **Southampton Choral Society with Solent Symphony Orchestra** perform Magnificat by Rutter and Magnificat in D by Bach at Romsey Abbey at 7.30pm. Tel (01794) 512987.

www.romseynet.org.uk/musicromsey.htm

22/04/10: **Richard Digance.** At The Lights, Andover at 7.30 pm. Tickets £15-£16 (£14 concession) Tel (01264) 368368 www.thelights.org.uk

Other events:

02/04/10 to 05/04/10 **Easter Eggstravaganza** 11am to 5pm and

06/04/10 to 16/04/10 **Easter Trails** 11am to 5pm at Mottisfont Abbey. Normal Admission charges apply. Tickets £2.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events

18/04/10: **French Food Market** in Stockbridge from 9.00am – 4.00pm.

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:

04 Apr 2010 – Romsey

11 Apr 2010 – Winchester

18 Apr 2010 – Andover

25 Apr 2010 – Winchester



Thank you to the magazine team

For the last eighteen months or so, the magazine has been produced by a much wider team of helpers than used to be the case. In fact we now have a group of 15 who meet together on a rotating basis to undertake the five monthly tasks of pulling together content, editing, publishing, printing and collating the magazine. These are further supported by the army of regular collators and distributors who ensure that each of the 720 households in Wherwell and Chilbolton receives a free copy of the magazine at the beginning of each month.

The five production tasks take up to a couple of days of each person's time and the majority of us have full-time jobs, so are completing our magazine work at the weekend. Spreading the duties amongst a wider number has had the positive effect of encouraging more people to join the team, but it can sometimes mean a slight loss of continuity, with articles occasionally being missed or details incorrectly reproduced and I hope that contributors and readers will bear with us when this happens.

It goes without saying, but is sometimes easy to forget, that all the people who help to produce and deliver the magazine are volunteers and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their unstinting efforts every month.

Join us on 23rd April for drinks and a few canapés

We would like to invite anyone who is interested in joining the magazine production team in any of the roles mentioned above to a social evening at Bannuts Farm, Chilbolton High Street on Friday, April 23rd between 6pm and 7 30 pm. The magazine team will be on hand to chat about the various roles and answer any questions.

As well as seeking volunteers to join the production teams, the magazine is particularly looking for someone to take over the role of **Advertising Manager** on the committee as Barbara North, our current Advertising Manager, has recently emigrated from Chilbolton to Stockbridge. If you would like to find out more about this role in advance of the meeting please call Barbara on 01264 810732

We look forward to seeing you on the 23rd.

Stephen MacDonald, Magazine Committee Chairman

The Wherwell History Group

The Wherwell Scrapbook is slowly taking shape. You can browse the Scrapbook by:

1. In a Google Search Box, type "google photos wherwell scrapbook" and hit enter.
2. In the list of hits on the first page, click on "Picasa Web Albums - wherwellscrapbook"
3. If (1) & (2) haven't worked, click on the web-link pasted below:
<http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/wherwellscrapbook>

This will navigate to some photo albums described as "wherwellscrapbook's Public Gallery" where you will find an album for each month, commencing November 2009.

"Public Gallery" means anyone can view these albums without being signed into a Google Account. Please note, the Scrapbook is stored in Google 'photos', which is not the same thing as Google 'images'.

Each album contains a set of 16 village scenes, which are being taken from the same viewpoint once per month. At the end of the year, these scenes will be made into video clips which will give a visual representation of the changing seasons. Each album also contains one or more of the items listed below:

- (i) Calendar view (whole month)
- (ii) Extracts from the Parish Magazine
- (iii) Flora & fauna
- (iv) Press Cuttings and additional local images
- (v) Caption web-link to albums for other months in the Scrapbook year.

Each month of the Scrapbook has two albums:

- a) A public gallery, as described above, and
- b) A set of photos taken in support of events in the calendar.

Because some photos of these events may feature local people and children, this album can only be browsed 'by invitation'. Members of the History Group and people who are contributors to the Scrapbook will automatically be sent a web-link. Any readers who would like to browse the events calendar, or become a contributor, are asked to send an email request to wherwellhistory@gmail.com

As well as compiling the Scrapbook, we are keen to conduct and archive some Oral Interviews, to supplement and update the interviews Mike Gee recorded over 10 years ago for the Millennium Video. We have a long list of local people we would like to approach, but if anybody would like to 'jump the queue' please contact Mike Gee (01264 860 592).

Andrew Flanagan

Wherwell History Group



An Illustrated talk by
John Price

RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

At
Colonel Jenkin's
Memorial Hall
Wherwell SP11 7JJ



Friday 16th April
at 8.00pm

All Welcome Admission £3.00
Tea/Coffee Biscuits available



Wherwell's Summer of Music

In recent years the number of music concerts has increased considerably in Wherwell, due to the formation of the Wherwell Singers and the hosting of visiting choirs and instrumentalists. This summer we have three concerts in Wherwell Church.

May 23rd: Visiting choir - Choraline -from La Châtaigneraie in France

May 28th: Guitar recital given by Birmingham Conservatoire students under Mark Eden (of the Eden Steel Duo)

June 19th: Wherwell Singers Summer Concert, including spirituals, part songs and a few surprises!

Further details will be available in the May edition of the magazine!

Wherwell Home Guard Club
The Old Hill, Wherwell
Tel: 01264 860314 (evenings)

Many people do not know we are here, but we are still going! We have recently been painting and updating the club, and we would love to have more members to use it!

Please come along one evening and see what we have to offer. Throughout the winter months there has been Bingo on Mondays, Billiards matches and an open Crib friendly on Tuesdays, Crib matches on Wednesdays, and then we are open Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtimes.

Monday night Bingo will continue throughout the year. After Easter we are starting a Crib Summer League on Tuesday nights with teams of four, if you are interested in playing please contact us.

Membership is very reasonable, and it is easy to apply – just come and collect an application form. We are here to provide a facility for the Village and surrounding area, and any money raised is spent on the running and up-keep of the club.

For more information please phone Shirley or Darrell Smith on 860057.



Andover Museum Loft Singers



We 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
LIGHTS, ANDOVER

Andover Museum Loft Singers present

'Folk in Harmony'

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

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.

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

WHERWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

PTA NEWSLETTER



Cake Sales Well done to Class 4 who raised £144 to buy wet play games. And well done too to Class 1 who raised a fabulous £169 last Friday, which will be used to buy an investigation trolley.

Ladies at the (White) Lion Vicky Trentham organised an evening at the White Lion on Wednesday 24th February. Friends, drinks, conversation – how civilised!

Quiz and Curry Night A very popular and entertaining evening attended by parents, Governors and village residents. Emma Way provided a delicious curry supper and the Quiz Team (Debra, Vicky and Sally) made sure there was plenty to exercise the 'little grey cells'. Congratulations to the winning team 'Brain Hurts', closely followed by 'Half Empty' and 'Great Expectations'. The event raised £680 which will be used to replace some of the rather tired picnic benches.

Swishing Friday's swishing offered plenty of stylish bargains and lots of laughs – Patsy Pritchard (to name just one) 'modelled' absolutely everything on the rails! Thank you to Nina Carey-Hodges and her team for organising the evening, which raised £324. Now ladies, we just need to see you wearing your purchases on the playground!

Woodland News Gravel spreading on the woodland path took place on 27th February and 6th March. The path to the side entrance has also been considerably improved – no more lakes to cross! A huge thank you to Claire Pigott and everyone who helped.

Susan Simmonds Fundraising Cycle Ride Susan Simmonds will be undertaking a marathon 300k cycle ride from London to Paris (25th - 28th June) in aid of Arthritis Care. Please support her by visiting: www.everydayhero.co.uk/susansimmonds.

SPRING FETE – Saturday 15th May – 11.30am to 2pm

The theme for this year's fete is 'Children in Sport' and the event has been launched with a competition for the children to design a 'sporty' poster – the chosen design will feature on the publicity and programme. The winner will be announced shortly.

The emphasis of the fete will be on displays of work and performances by the children, but there will be plenty of stalls to peruse and games to amuse, as well as a barbecue, drinks tent and traditional tea tent. The woodland will be open to visitors, and, of course, there will be a Grand Draw – prizes this year include a day's fishing on the River Test, tickets to an Abba tribute concert, lunch at The Mayfly and vouchers for flowers, gifts and family days out. Draw tickets will be available from Monday 19th April.

Preparations are well under way, but more volunteers are required so if you can spare the time to help please contact either Debra Armstrong or Jo Hancocks . Now all we need is the sunshine!

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Continued from page 22

Wherwell School Supporters' Club Congratulations to Maggie Hobbs who won the Half Term Draw on 12th February. The Supporters Club currently has 45 members and the next Draw will take place the week before the Easter holidays (£25 prize). It's never too late to join! Contact Edel Dratwa, mother of Alice in Class 3, for more information or e-mail us on the address below.

Easyfundraising Another great way to help raise funds. Use Easyfundraising to visit your favourite websites when shopping online and the school will benefit. If you have not yet registered then contact Debra Armstrong for more details.

Fun Run – Sunday 16th May Dust off your trainers and help raise ££'s (as well as lose a few lbs) by joining the annual Wherwell Primary School Fun Run. You can now register on-line at www.wherwellfunrun.com.

4th Andover Scouts John Cox is organising two fundraising events at Thruxton Race Circuit on the first and third weekends of April.

There is now a **PTA Suggestion Box** in the school office for your ideas and comments – polite ones only please!

Wherwell Primary School

Spring Fete

Saturday 15th May 2010

11.30pm – 2.00pm



BBQ, Beer & Pimms
Traditional Teas & Cakes
Pre-loved Toys
2nd Hand Books, CD's & DVD's
Bouncy Castle, Kids Games
Grand Prize Draw
and Much More....



*with Entertainment from
the Children of the School*

Free Car Parking

Jane's Kitchen



Easter is not only a major Christian festival, but also one for chocoholics with an explosion of chocolate in all forms.

The following individual desert cakes have produced a few wows when I served them to friends and family. I discovered the recipe in an article entitled, 'Heavenly Chocolate' in a magazine produced in New Zealand!

Chocolate Cakes with Amaretti Cream and Chocolate Sauce

Cakes

120gm good dark chocolate, melted
4oz butter
3 1/2oz sugar
3 large eggs
3oz ground almonds
2oz amaretti biscuits – crushed.

Line 6 large muffin tins with papers or circles of greaseproof. Cream the butter and sugar, add the eggs stirring well and fold in the almonds and crushed amaretti biscuits. Fold in the melted chocolate. Spoon into tins and bake for 25 – 30 mins. in a hot oven 180C - cool.

Sauce

150gm good, dark chocolate
1 tbsp butter
¼ pt double cream.

Heat the milk and butter until just coming to the boil. Remove from the heat and add the chopped chocolate. Stir until dissolved. Keep warm.

Cream

Whip 1/4pt of whipping cream and add 2–3 tablespoons of crushed amaretti biscuits.

To serve: Slice a third off the top of the cakes, fill with the amaretti cream, dust with icing sugar and place on individual serving plates adding a 'pool' of chocolate sauce.

WHERWELL PLAYING FIELDS

Many of you will have noticed all the work taking place at the children's playground by the school. Some time ago we were offered the money from a Hampshire County Council grant, specifically to improve these facilities. After much deliberation and consultation a plan was drawn up. In addition to more interesting equipment for older children there will also be two new picnic tables, a climbing log and a lot of landscaped planting to soften the impact on the surrounding area. Hopefully these features will also improve the waiting experience for parents collecting their children from school.

You may also have noticed that the old tin groundsman's shed has been demolished. This is being replaced with a new timber and slate building which has been produced for us by Wherwell craftsman, George Hampson. The new building will be much appreciated by our volunteer groundstaff as the old building was well past its sell by date and also a real eyesore.

Negotiations are nearing completion for the next major project, the two new tennis courts. It is hoped to start work on these very soon. One will be marked out as a multiplay surface and the other solely as a tennis court. We are looking for volunteers to help set up a tennis club. Please contact me if you are interested.

The football season is now drawing to a close and it has been a privilege to have hosted Wolverdene football club's Sunday league matches again this year. Do remember that Wherwell has its own junior football club and the facilities are all there for resurrecting a senior team if anyone is interested in organising this.

The Wherwell Cricket Club is busy getting ready for the new season and I am sure they will be keen to talk to anyone interested in joining them this year, either as a player or a social member. Do come and support your team, the cream teas are great!

Remember the Pavilion and field are available for hire for various functions such as weddings, parties or meetings. There is a licensed bar and well equipped kitchen.

Finally please help us with our fundraising. We have our Sports fete on August Bank Holiday Monday and we always need helpers on the day. If you need encouragement there is a free helpers' BBQ at the end of the day!

We also have The 200 Club with monthly draws for many cash prizes including two x £200 prizes in the year. We have a few numbers left at £12-50 each per year so contact me if you are interested.

Finally, please remember that these are your playing fields so if you have any ideas or would like to help do contact me.

***John Andrews - vice chairman Wherwell Playing Field's Committee
Tel: 860635 or flyjohnandrews@aol.com***

Andover Riding for the Disabled incorporating Carriage Driving HORSEY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Have you got a couple of hours to spare? Andover Riding for the Disabled is looking for volunteer helpers for Ibthorpe and Abbotts 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. Our teaching venues range from Ibthorpe, Binley, Hare Warren Abbotts Ann to Romsey.

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. So come and join us on Sunday 11 April from 2 to 5pm and bring your family and friends. Entrance £2. Well-behaved dogs on leads welcome (50p). To find out more contact:

The Organiser: Elizabeth Maclay 01264 738229



GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY IN THE AREA - APRIL 2010

Friday 2nd April: Little Court, Crawley, near Winchester. Gardens open for The National Gardens Scheme (NGS) from 2pm to 5.30pm. Admission is £3.50, children free. Home-made teas available. www.ngs.org.uk

Sunday 4th April: Longstock Park Water Garden is open from 2pm to 5pm in aid of Eastleigh Home Start. Admission is £5 for adults, £1 for children under 16. Teas are available at Longstock Park Nursery. www.longstockpark.co.uk

Sunday 11th April: Crawley Gardens open for The National Gardens Scheme (NGS) from 2pm to 5.30pm. Check website for gardens that are open in April. Combined admission £4, children free. Home-made teas available at Village Hall.

www.ngs.org.uk

Tuesday 13th April: Crawley Gardens open for The National Gardens Scheme (NGS) from 2pm to 5.30pm. Details as 11th April.

Sunday 18th April: Longstock Park Water Garden is open from 2pm to 5pm in aid of Andover Crisis and Support Centre. Details as 4th April.

Friday 23rd April: Little Court, Crawley, near Winchester. Details as 2nd April.

Chilbolton Horticultural Society Report, March 2010

This month, a well-attended meeting of the Horticultural Society welcomed back Andy McIndoe from Hilliers to give us a talk on planting trees. His slides gave us all ideas of what would be suitable for our gardens, as he was able to tell us which trees were suited to the soils in this area.

A number of members had recently visited the Winter Garden at Hilliers, with its tempting array of winter-blooming perennials, trees and shrubs. The colours of their dogwoods, especially 'Midwinter Fire', were a treat not to be missed. The perfume of Daphnes and Witch-hazels on a sunny day was heady, and after such a long cold winter, really lifted the spirits.

The programme for next year's speakers and the Flower Show Schedule have been finalised and will be available next month at the Spring Show, when we will welcome the Head Gardener from Longstock Gardens.

The theme for this year's Flower Show is 'Holidays'. To give you a sneak preview of the schedule, the photo competition titles are very wide: 'Holiday Fun' and 'Celebration' (both classes in digital and non-digital format, so you can go mad with Photoshop if you want to). The Craft items will be a knitted hat, a knitted scarf (both for Mission to Seamen) and a bag

made from recycled materials - the more inventive the better. Patterns for all these will be available with the schedules when they go on general release.

Just a reminder: despite its name, the Society is open to all residents of both Chilbolton and Wherwell. We would love to have some members from 'across the water'. We have great speakers and a thriving membership.

Sue Batchelor

PLANT SALE
Saturday 24 April
10 – 12 noon
Appleshaw Village Hall



Come and sell your plants. We take 15% of your sales, you keep the rest.

Donated plants very welcome – all profits go to village funds

A wide variety of plants to buy
Coffee and cakes available

Enquiries and bookings to:

Sara Walker 772255 Josie McCall 772224
Sarah B-D 772797 Suzanne Parker 772251
Margie Coldrey 771648 Jenny Taylor 772260
Malcolm Cuthbertson 772773



Wessex Cancer Trust

Jane Scarth House

invites you to



The Waitrose farm

Longstock Park Water Garden

OPENING IN AID OF WCT JANE SCARTH HOUSE

By kind permission of the John Lewis Partnership



Sunday 2nd May 2010, 2 - 5pm

- Admission charges £5 per adult and £1 for children 14 & under
- Refreshments, including homemade cakes, are available in the Tearoom at the Nursery from 2 - 5pm in aid of local church funds
 - Ample car parking including disabled parking
- Sorry, no dogs allowed in the Water Garden except registered Assistance Dogs

Wessex Cancer Trust Jane Scarth House

39 The Hundred, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8GE

t: 01794 830374 e: janescarthhouse@btconnect.com

Registered Charity No 1110216

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 Saturdays, 10-12noon, 24 April, 8 and 15 May. Cost £25

Join us in exploring our local woodlands with Susan, identifying and discovering woodland wildlife in spring, including carpets of bluebells.

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.

CPRE trip to Kew Gardens 12th May 2010



The Test Valley Branch of the Campaign to Protect the Countryside has organised a coach trip to Kew Gardens. These are arguably at their very best in May.

The cost is £28.00 to non members (£26 to members), this is for the coach, entry to the gardens and to the Palace. (If you are already a member of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, entry to the grounds is free and the cost is £18).

We leave from the Wickes car park in Andover at 9.15 am and will return there at about 5.30, giving you lots of time in the gardens.

To book a place contact Moya Grove on 01264 860411



Bee Diary April 2010



Writing this in early March, we still have to find out how many of our colonies of bees will survive this long cold winter. At the time of writing all 25 hives are still alive, some appear quite strong in numbers of bees and activity within. On the sunny days, bees fly out to gather water and also early pollen from the hazel catkins. Soon willow will add another source of pollen which is used to create the food to feed to young larvae.

We have been checking varroa mite numbers every month by counting the natural mortality of the varroa mites. Under each hive is a mesh floor, and when the varroa mite dies of old age, it drops through the floor and collects on a plastic tray below. We count a weeks worth of dead varroa from each hive and then feed the results into the National Bee Unit's computer. This calculates the varroa population in each hive and recommends when the hive should be treated to reduce varroa numbers. Currently all our hives are showing low levels of varroa infestation, due to successful treatment with thyme oil aromatherapy last August.

The big concern in springtime is queen bee viability. Unless the queen was well mated at the time of her virgin flight in the summer, the possibility of her failing to lay eggs effectively in the spring is quite high. I believe this is one of the major reasons that colonies fail in springtime. Varroa mites are especially attracted to male drone bee larvae and when these mature, if they have been parasitized by varroa, their potency as mates for the queen is severely diminished. Hence many queens do not mate successfully and run out of sperm at the critical time, when rapid colony spring build up is required, and when it is still far too early to supersede the queen.

Be aware that the bee swarming season will soon be upon us. If you are in that hot tub in the garden in the altogether, and the sky darkens above you with a cloud of bees, listen out for a wooden spoon banging on an old kettle. This will be the beekeeper, chasing his swarm and keeping it in sight. He has a legal right to climb your fence, invade your privacy and to cross your land in full pursuit of his swarm as long as he bangs on that kettle.

This is a wonderful time of year for bees and beekeepers, in fact for anyone who can get out and enjoy the changing season. Spring is in the air, the days are lengthening and bee colonies are expanding rapidly. As the sun climbs in the sky, the trees bud up and flower, the fields of rape turn yellow, the bluebells carpet the woods.

O to be in England, now that spring is here!

Jolyon Pope

Chilbolton & Wherwell Wildlife

The relatively cold weather has continued through February and March, and as I write, both garden and wild flowers are many weeks behind their average dates of first flowering. The sallow blossom, commonly known as pussy willow, is only just beginning to appear, and the bright yellow flowers of celandines are only now just opening in the hedgerows. I would normally expect to see both of these in early February.



There's been much concern nationally, that the prolonged cold weather may have had a big impact on the populations of some of our less common birds. Birds such as Dartford Warbler and Woodlark, are near the northern limit of their breeding range in southern England, and other species like Cetti's Warbler and Little Egret have only come to this country during the last thirty years of milder winters. Locally at least, the good news is that Egrets are still being seen on the Common as frequently as before the snow, and just downriver near Leckford, there are still at least a couple of Cetti's Warblers singing. Also, today in mid-March, I found a pair of Woodlarks not far away from us on the fringe of Harewood Forest. So, although we won't know the full impact until after this season's national surveys, it looks as if most bird species have at least survived.

At the same location in the Harewood Forest today, I saw an interesting day-flying moth – the Orange Underwing. This species flies in early spring sunshine around the tops of birch trees. But you can sometimes be lucky and see one settled on a path. They're not a particularly common moth, and are sometimes confused with early-flying butterflies such as the Comma or Small Tortoiseshell. They can be differentiated by showing less orange than the butterfly species, and by their much more erratic flight. Also, even if disturbed quite low down, they quickly return to flitting around the tops of the birch trees. The end of March and first week of April are good times to look out for Orange Underwings around the birch trees on West Down, or almost anywhere in Harewood Forest.

Glynne Evans (hantsbto@hotmail.com)

District and County Councillors

Wherwell: Cllr Jim Neal

Chilbolton: Cllr Peter Boulton

County: Cllr Andrew Gibson