

Chilbolton and Wherwell Community Magazine

Last month, Hilary Jennison asked us to contribute our superstitions. Do please keep them rolling in. Hilary's editorial got me thinking about how unsuperstitious I am. I go through life quite happily walking under ladders or saying 'Macbeth' in theatres. A black cat walking in front me on the road does not presage disaster or good fortune – it causes my dog to start whining in the car.

The history of superstitions is actually quite interesting. For instance, there are three possible reasons why walking under a ladder is thought to be unlucky. First, a leaning ladder was thought to resemble the gallows in medieval times, so walking under it was thought to be tempting death. Second, the shape formed by a leaning ladder is a triangle, a symbol of the Holy Trinity. Walking through the triangle was therefore seen to be a desecration of God. The third reason comes from ancient Egypt. Egyptians believed a special power was held by the triangle as it was the shape of the pyramid. Walking under the ladder broke the power of the shape.

Local lore and its history – now there's an interesting article for the Magazine.

David Wright

Thank you to Terry Gilmour, Hilary Jennison and David Wright who produced this month's magazine, to Terry Gilmour 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		
Baptism	16 May	Oliver Joseph Channell
	29 May	Charlotte Sophie Hall
		Francesca Faith Hall
	19 June	Polly Cooper
Wherwell		
Wedding	29 May	David John Clarke and Alexandra Rae Lawton-Bryant

Church Services August 2010

	St Mary the Less Chilbolton	St Mary's Crawley	St Catherine's Littleton	St Stephen's Sparsholt	St Peter & Holy Cross Wherwell
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Saturday 31st July

House Communion			10.00am		
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Sunday 1st August The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion	8.00 am		8.00 am		
All Age Worship			10.00 am		
Family Communion				10.00 am	
Common Worship with HC					10.00 am
Morning Worship		10.00 am			
Dessert Island Hymns	6.00 pm				
Service of Peace & Heal			6.00 pm		

Wednesday 4th August

Holy Communion			9.30 am		
Westholme			2.30pm		

Sunday 8th August The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion				8.00 am	
Family Communion		10.00 am	10.00 am		
Sunday School at Crawley					
Morning Prayer	10.00 am				
Welcome Worship				10.00 am	
Wherwell Sunday School					4.00pm
Evensong					6.00 pm

Wednesday 11th August

Holy Communion	10.30am		9.30am		
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Sunday 15th August The Blessed Virgin Mary

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 18th August

Holy Communion			9.30 am		
Meditation			7.00 pm		

Thursday 19th August

Flowerdown			2.30pm		
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Sunday 22 August The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

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 25 August

Holy Communion			9.30am		
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**Sunday 29th August The
Thirteenth Sunday after
Trinity**

Benefice Family Communion with Archdeacon Michael Harley			10.00am		
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Pause for Thought

Dear Friends,

There are a number of seasons for new beginnings. The traditional one is January 1st, when we may make those “resolutions” to do things differently which tend not to last beyond the end of January! Another season is the beginning of Advent, which is the church’s “New Year”. Yet another is the end of summer, the month of September. That’s one that’s always been very significant for me. Perhaps it’s a result of all those years of school and college, distant though they now are! The start of the new “learning” year held exciting possibilities of new discoveries and personal growth.

I’m writing this letter to you because this autumn I’m making a “new beginning”, moving on to a new post and different responsibilities as an Assistant Priest in the parish of Romsey. I’m now in the final year of my curacy, which is when most curates begin to look for a new post. I’m not hoping to become an incumbent but there comes a time to look for fresh experience and, from the practical point of view, I need to work a bit nearer to where I live.

When I came to the benefice as a newly ordained deacon, at the beginning of July 2007, I was beginning a new ministry and facing the challenges and possibilities that brings. The benefice to which I came wasn’t yet the Downs Benefice but still a benefice made up of the three parishes of Crawley, Littleton and Sparsholt. The process which was to lead to the formation of the Downs Benefice, with Chilbolton and Wherwell joining those three parishes, was under way and the new benefice came into being at the beginning of January 2008. So I came into a situation where we were all making new beginnings together.

Looking back over these three years I see how, through God’s grace, we have all progressed on the pilgrim journey that is life. We are called to spiritual growth. We sometimes speak of children as suffering from “growing pains” and spiritual growth can be painful too. It frequently takes us out of our comfort zones to places where, left to ourselves, we’d rather not go. But to stand still is to wither. Multi-parish benefices mean we have to think beyond parish boundaries and develop wider horizons. They bring a pooling of skills and sharing of traditions that enriches us all. If that means sometimes learning to get along with folk who don’t see or do things quite as we do, that’s surely a good thing in our multi-racial, multi-faith society. As those who have committed our lives to following the way of Christ we are called to serve all God’s people. If we can’t reach out in love and understanding to our neighbours in the next parish we’re unlikely to go far on our God-given mission.

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

The Downs Benefice has made an excellent beginning, as we've got to know each other and together explored the direction God is asking us to take and the work He is asking us to do. That's not surprising because you really are lovely people. I can't begin to thank you for your welcome, the warmth, kindness and affection that you've shown me and the support and encouragement that you've given me. My grateful thanks go too to colleagues in the ministry team, always caring and understanding, and to Caroline, Maggie and Vanessa in the Benefice Office, who have borne patiently and kindly with my less than organised approach to administration. My very special thanks are for Juliet, our Rector and Vicar, who has been the kindest and wisest mentor, guide and friend that I could possibly have hoped or wished for and who has played a key role in getting the Benefice off to its good start.

The Downs Benefice will always be very dear to my heart. May you continue to grow and prosper, as God makes known His will for you. May He go with you in all that you do and may you follow the loving path of Christ in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

With my love,

Jill

From the Church Records

Chilbolton		
Baptism	16 May	Oliver Channell
Scattering of Ashes	16 May	Eric and Muriel Morgan
Baptism	26 May	Charlotte Hall
Baptism	26 May	Francesca Hall
Baptism	19 June	Polly Cooper
Wherwell		
Burial of Ashes	18 June	Mamie Glover
Baptism	4 July	Benjamin Tall
Wedding	10 July	Dale Osborne and Shirley Leggett
Wedding	24 July	Shawn Brown and Kimberlee Terry



CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

Wherwell Dates

7th & 14th August Mrs. Ansell 860775
21st & 28th August Mrs. Conte 860789

Autumns Lectures on Catholic Social Teaching

You are invited by Hampshire Downs RC Parish Justice and Peace Group to an Autumn Series of Lectures and Workshops on Catholic Social Teaching:

- **Wed Sept 22nd Canon Paul Townsend "Family - The Vital Cell of Society"**
Canon Paul Townsend is Parish Priest of Hampshire Downs Parish and Episcopal Vicar for the Formation of the Clergy.
- **Wed Sept 29th Michael Hornsby-Smith "Economic Life"**
Michael Hornsby-Smith is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Surrey and was chairman of the Justice and Peace Commission in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.
- **Wed Oct 13th Rev. Dr James Sweeney "Human Work"**
Fr. James Sweeney teaches in the Pastoral & Social Studies Department at Heythrop College, University of London and is secretary of the Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain.
- **Wed Oct 20th Bruce Kent "Justice and Peace"**
Bruce Kent is a retired priest and is now a Vice President of Pax Christi, CND and the Movement for the Abolition of War. He was once President of the International Peace Bureau in Geneva.
- **Wed Nov 3rd Dr Keith Chappell "The Human Person and Human Rights"**
Dr Keith Chappell is a member of the Las Casas Institute on Ethics, Governance and Social Justice based at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford and of the Maryvale Institute, Birmingham where he teaches Catholic Social Teaching.
- **Wed Nov 10th Professor Mary Grey "Safeguarding the Environment"**
Professor Mary Grey is an ecofeminist liberation theologian until recently D.J. James Professor of Pastoral Theology at the University of Wales and now professorial research fellow at St Mary's University College, London.

Catholic Social Teaching is often described as one of the best-kept secrets of the Catholic church! Each evening will start with a short (approx 30-45 minutes) Lecture followed by a short Q and A session and then by a facilitated Workshop. We start at 7pm with a glass of wine and some nibbles with the Lecture at 7.30pm and finishing at about 9pm. The venue is Milner Hall next to St Peter's Church, Jewry Street, Winchester. **The meetings are open to all church communities in Winchester and Alresford.**



The Winchester Committee of
Cancer Research UK
invites you to

GOLDEN MOMENTS FROM OPERA

Presented by the Hatstand Opera at Norton Park, Sutton Scotney SO21 3NB

ON SUNDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2010

Champagne reception from 5.30 p.m. Show starts at 6.30 p.m.

Tickets £25 each (includes glass of champagne and performance)

Scene Restaurant will be serving post Show suppers for an extra charge of
2 courses £20, 3 courses £25.

For further information and tickets please contact Lindy Baines on 01264 860448.

Wherwell Parish Council Meeting on 13th July 2010

Planning – A short discussion took place regarding the decision at a planning meeting on the 15 June to approve the planning application for a new house and garage at Watermeadow, while noting some reservations as to the size and bulk of the garage. A final decision is being made on this application by the Northern Planning Committee on the 15th July.

The Council considered and approved the application at Rosemary Cottage in Church Street to demolish part of the existing garage, rebuild the end wall and construct an extension on front of the garage.

The Council expressed dismay at the latest correspondence from TVBC Planning Enforcement Officer regarding the area known as Purvers Patch, which suggested that the area is now retrospectively classified as B8 Storage. District Cllr Neil agreed to take the matter up again with TVBC, but asked for further statements from local residents about their knowledge of the past use of the land.

Finance - The Clerk produced the Bi monthly monitoring report and asked The Council to express its thanks to Hilary Jennison for again undertaking the internal audit of the 2009/10 accounts. The Council also confirmed its decision not to subscribe to the Hampshire Association of Local Councils as it was felt we do not utilise or need their services.

The sale of land to HCC approximately the size of one tennis court on Wherwell Playing Fields which is adjacent to Wherwell School was approved. The £60,000 will be used to build a new tennis court and multi purpose court on the Playing Field.

Village Repairs – The Cockatrice weather vane presented in memory of Mr Vick Pike by his family was completed. Cllr Bryant will now arrange with the Village Hall committee for it to be erected on the roof as soon as possible. The dead plants in the trough on the High Street are to be replanted with several Councillors agreeing to help with the ongoing watering rota.

Wherwell Primary School - It was reported that they had had excellent Key Stage 2 SATS results this year and that extensive refurbishment of the reception area, school hall and a new outdoor shelter are taking place over the summer.

Wherwell Hall - The Council noted that the ceiling tiles had been replaced and commented on how smart the whole building looked.

Playing Fields – the implement shed has been completed and will now store all maintenance and sports equipment and fete props. The Playing Fields Committee is arranging for the extended children's play area to be fully enclosed in September with three gates for easy access. The Council offered the surplus granite kerb stones that had not been needed for the village green to help create a safety zone by the car park.

Continued on Page 8

Continued from Page 7

Despite the fact that they manage an area that is owned by the Parish, the relationship between the Wherwell Playing Fields Committee and The Council has never been formalised. It was agreed that Wherwell Playing Fields Committee is a Sub-Committee of Wherwell Parish Council and that at least one member of The Parish Council is a recognised member of that committee.

Parish Church – Repairs to the Chancel floor are expected to take place later in the year.

Administration – The Clerk is to send all Minutes for 2010 to Cllr Hutton for inclusion on the website. Cllrs Horne and Broadbent to update existing Community Directory before September meeting.

Date of next meeting – it was been postponed till 21st September to enable Councillors to attend the public meeting on the 14th September in Chilbolton to discuss proposals to overcome problems associated with the Chilbolton Common.

Sean Hutton (Vice Chair)



CHILBOLTON CHURCH FETE AND BBQ 2010

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made the 2010 Church Fete and BBQ the most successful ever. We were once again blessed with fantastic weather. Two sunny Fetes in a row must be something of a record!

Once again we must say a huge thank you to everyone who turned up to help with all the hard work. Gazebos shot up in record time, and chairs and tables appeared as by magic. A special thank-you must go to Stevo Pico of Peak Electrics who spent all day Friday creating such a wonderful sound system for us.

There are moments when one feels truly privileged to live in a beautiful village in the country, and this day was one of them. The amount of money that was raised became almost secondary to the really fun day that was created for all our visitors. Our first Dog Show appears to have been a great success, over 20 dogs in most classes, hopefully something to be continued in the future.

The money is still being finalized, but at the moment the takings on the day were just over £8,700 (£900 up on last year). After the addition of all the sponsorship we are hoping to end up with a sum in excess of £10,000 after expenses. A truly fantastic achievement for a village of just over 1000 inhabitants.

As we retire after our three year stint, the PCC are still looking for people to take over the reins next year. If you would like to help please contact Jeannie on 860792.

Thank you once again to everyone for all the hard work and support.

Jennie and Jeannie

Chilbolton Parish Council

At the meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 6 July, a major part of the discussion centred on the management of the Common. In preparation for a public meeting to be held on Tuesday 14 September to discuss this, Cllr Peter Collis informed you in the June magazine of the problems arising from the ever increasing number of visitors. With the September magazine there will be a leaflet telling you more about the Common's ownership and management. I urge you to try to attend this meeting, which the Council hopes will help you to appreciate our efforts to protect it and to have you join the band of enthusiasts who are already helping to maintain this local treasure.

There will also be an illustrated talk later in the Autumn on the flora and fauna that can be found on the Common. This talk will be given by Glynne Evans, a local naturalist and Chairman of the Leckford based John Lewis Trust for the Advancement of Natural Sciences.

PC John Viney, the new Police Beat Manager for this area, briefed the meeting on local crime and disturbances and the measures being taken to support the management of the Common and West Down. He asked to be kept informed about any meetings of the Neighbourhood Watch. DCllr Daniel Busk warned of reduced services from TVBC, which seemed inevitable in the face of proposed budget cuts.

Following the meeting, the Parish Clerk met with HCC Highways Division and work has started on repairing the damaged highway. Cllr Gibson reported that an extra £12M had been allocated to the Highways budget and that he had now accepted responsibility for standards of repair work. An on-line system is being developed which will schedule all reported road works and repairs. This will tell Parish Councils the anticipated date for works to begin.

On Tuesday 17 August we are expecting a visit from the Historical Branch of the Andover University of the Third Age (U3A). We shall give them an overview, followed by a visit to the Observatory/Airfield, the Common and the Church. If any villager would like to be associated with this day, please tell me on 860448.

There is no Parish Council meeting in August, so we will next meet on Tuesday 7 September at 8 pm in the Durnford Room of the Village Hall.

Jeremy Baines
Chairman, Chilbolton Parish Council

Thank you Jennie and Jeannie

Having the fete in your garden is a surreal experience. A party for hundreds materialises without your lifting a finger, and afterwards the mess is spirited away as if by magic. And amazingly, at the end of it all, you are given a beautiful bouquet! The next day you wonder if was all a dream – no sign whatever that almost a thousand adults, children and their four-legged friends were there, playing, eating delicious home-made things, and drinking gallons of Pimms and beer. If only all parties cleared themselves away like that!

Although it seemed to happen by magic, we witnessed at first hand the amount of thought, care and organisation that went into making sure everything worked and everyone's needs would be met. On top of this, no doubt hundreds of emails and phone calls were made. Jennie and Jeannie have thanked everyone who helped, but they deserve the biggest thank-you of all. We take it for granted that the fete happens every summer, but if it wasn't for them, and others who take on this huge annual commitment, it quite simply wouldn't.

Tessa Youell

New Permissive Paths

The Chilbolton Observatory has been recently awarded a new research project and part of the requirements for this project is the complete isolation of the test equipment from interference, such as that produced by mobile phones. As such, the Observatory has carried out fencing work to ensure that no one enters onto their site by accident, which could otherwise invalidate weeks of research. In consultation with the Parish Council, the Observatory has kindly offered to create two new 'Permissive' footpaths, one at the North end and the other at the South end of their land. A 'Permissive' foot path is a path where access rights have been granted by the land owner, for legal passage on foot, over their land along a designated route. This permission can be taken away at any time and without notice if the terms and conditions surround the access rights is breached. Also, in order to remain designated as a 'Permissive' path, the path needs to be closed for at least 1 day per year. As such, the Observatory will close the paths once a year, for one day, but notice will be given when this will be carried out.

The Northern path, runs along the outside of the new fence, parallel to Little Drove Road, from Drove Road (the entrance is about 25m away

Continued on Page 11

Continued from Page 10

from the junction, near to ‘Four Winds’) via a new opening in the hedge, across to the ‘Mark Way’, again via a new opening. This new path means that there is now a safer route than walking along Little Drove Road and gives much easier access to the Mark Way.

The Southern path also runs along the outside of a new fence and also links Drove Road to the Mark Way. The Drove Road entrance is by the bottom end junction, close to HBS Fuels and the old airfield access road. You can either enter the path by the gate that goes across the old access road or directly from Drove road via a new gap that will be created. Please try to ensure that you use this path and not the old access road, which is in fact private property.

Four new sign posts (‘finger posts’) are being put up, to clearly mark the entrance into the paths from both ends.

If the new fences are broken down to enable illegal access to their land, the Observatory will remove these paths, so please make sure that we all respect the vital research work being carried out and make sure we can all enjoy the new paths!

If anyone has any questions or concerns relating to this article, please contact Cllr Martin Gossling either by email on martin@cranog.com or on 861375.

Boundary wall at Northwood House Chilbolton

Following the collapse of the wall adjacent to Winchester Street in Chilbolton, a builder, specializing in brickwork, was selected and was ready to rebuild the wall exactly as it was with the old bricks and mortar, in April. Test Valley’s Conservation Officer, however, declared that listed building consent and planning permission should be sought before the wall could be repaired. This was duly applied for, but on July 6th I was told that an error had been made by the administration team of the Planning and Building Service, and that my application had not been registered. This has now been put right, but the next committee available to decide my application was not until the end of July.

J M Ward

The Wherwell History Group

Following on from Open Gardens, July was a busy month for the Scrapbook Team. We had a Japanese Film Crew in the village at 30 High Street (see separate article) and we conducted interviews with Peter & Deborah Lewis and Hilary Thrupp. After 23 years at Testside, the Lewises are very sad to be leaving Wherwell. However, there is some compensation; they are swapping a glorious view of the River Test for a splendid view of Putney Bridge and the River Thames.

Testside was built as a 2-bedroom, 2-garage dwelling on allotment ground, by Max Baker who lived at White Lodge. Peter & Deborah changed it into a more



family orientated house, by converting the garages into bedrooms. They also built the Victorian-style greenhouse and planted the splendid flowering Cherry.

Both Max & Peter worked for The John Lewis Partnership. Max Baker was Director of Department Stores and when he retired in 1967, Peter Lewis took over this role. Five years later, Peter became Chairman (1972 – 1993). On retirement, Peter had an advisory role

looking after Longstock Water Gardens until 2009. These Gardens cover 7 acres (50% water) and are well known for opening on Sunday afternoons in aid of local Charities. Peter's grandfather was John Lewis (1836 – 1928), founder of the famous firm. John was brought up in Shepton Mallet and after brief spells of work in Bridgewater and Liverpool arrived in London in 1856, where he found work in the Ladies Cloaks department of Peter Robinson's at £5 per month. Four years later (aged 24) he became Buyer for Silk and Woollen Dress Materials.

After another four years, John Lewis leased his own shop; a small vacant tobacconist at 132 Oxford Street. From £5,000 in the first year, annual sales had risen to £25,000 by 1870, £100,000 by 1890 and £250,000 by 1906. With minimal retail price inflation, the growth is real. Success soon throttled the original shop, but acquiring neighbouring units was a long haul. It took nearly 30 years to expand into a complete block; 4 shops in Oxford Street and 12 shops round the corner in Holles Street. Managing the business meant popping out of one building and into another; the landlord did not allow internal amalgamation. In 1905, John Lewis bought a controlling share in Peter Jones Ltd, following the death of its founder. The rest, as they say, is history!

The interview with Hilary Thrupp was a fascinating follow-up to an interview in March. Hilary Cookson, and sister Jocelyn, spent their childhood years in North London. In 1942, aged 17, Hilary joined the Royal Artillery 628 Squadron, Heavy Mixed Battery, Isle of Sheppey. After the War, training as a stenographer led to appointment as Personal Assistant to the Director of Studies at Sandhurst.



Continued on Page 13

Continued from Page 12

In 1955, she married Caspar Thrupp and they moved into Constables Cottage in Earls Colne. In quick succession they became apple farmers and then launderette owners (living above the premises at 23 London Street, Andover) before moving to Uplands (now The Well House) in 1958. Twelve years later there was a move to the Old Malthouse, and a final move to Gavel Barn (depicted right) after another twelve years.



During her time in Wherwell, Hilary has been Secretary to Wherwell Playing Fields Association for 14 years, on the Parish Council for 16 years, and a PCC Member and founder of the Church Choir. Her 'potted history of property' is recorded in patchwork on an autobiographical quilt.

Singing and Patchwork are Hilary's two main achievements. She was Soprano in the Waynflete Singers & Cathedral Choir, and sang Bach's Magnificat in the 1993 BBC Proms. In the early 70's, Hilary was Assistant Choir Mistress to Lady Orde.

Hilary taught Quilting for nearly 25 years and some of her work has won prizes in National Competitions or been featured in publications. She was also the driving force behind the Cockatrice Quilters, which we hope will be featured in next month's magazine.

Andrew Flanagan

A Forestry Manager's Tale

Hilary and Caspar Thrupp have lived in Wherwell since 1958, first at Uplands (now the Well House) then the Old Malthouse and finally in Gavel Barn. Caspar was a gentleman of the old school and a real character. Sadly he died in 1990 at the ripe old age of 90. Hilary, a fine quiltmaker and singer, still lives in the village and is a fund of lively stories and ready wit. This is one of her stories..... *Sue Blazdell*

'This is a true and I hope amusing story that comes from Burma some 80 years ago. It was told to me by husband Caspar, who once worked for the Bombay Burma Corporation who were getting teak out of the forests, using working elephants. The Company thankfully also practised re-afforestation unlike many operators today.

Caspar's job was to travel through the jungle visiting small villages which were responsible for caring for a number of elephants and to see that both the villagers and the animals were managing well. It was a lonely job being the only white man for miles around. Caspar rode a pony and carried all the equipment required, including a gun – just in case! A small terrier was his only companion who warned of any dangers ahead such as snakes.

On this occasion, as Caspar approached the outskirts of the village, the Headman came rushing towards him in deep distress. Caspar asked him what the

Continued on Page 14

Continued from Page 13

matter was and was told there was a leopard invading the village, trashing the crops, pestering livestock, killing poultry and small animals and worrying the elephants. The villagers were now very apprehensive that it would one day catch and kill one of the children. They implored Caspar to shoot him!

Caspar had a plan. They would build, under Caspar's instruction, a large trap on the edge of the village. It would have to be big and strong and would have attached to it a smaller live bait trap. When they finished building, Caspar told the Headman to put his dog into the little baiting trap. The Headman was terribly upset for he loved his dog but he had to do as he was told and Caspar tried to reassure him.

First thing next morning, the villagers, as arranged, walked back to the trap to see if they had caught the leopard. Alas! No leopard, but the larger of the traps was full of ensnared village dogs, because the Headman's dog was a bitch in season! It is not recorded whether the leopard was ever caught, but all was well, months later on Caspar's return visit.'

Hilary Thrupp



**'The Foundations of Wherwell Abbey'
by Rhoda Bucknill**

**To be launched in the grounds of Wherwell Priory
and St Peter & Holy Cross Church**

6 pm on Saturday 28th August 2010

**Come and have a drink to celebrate the launch of
Rhoda's new booklet describing the history of
Wherwell Abbey from its earliest beginnings. See
the layout of the original Abbey church on the
Priory lawn**

Please park at the church.

**Entry to Priory grounds via the private gate from
the churchyard only**

--In aid of the Church Restoration Fund --



WHY WATCH THE LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS AT HOME?



**Experience the atmosphere at Wherwell Playing Fields
on Saturday 11th September 2010**

Live music (choral, jazz and opera) from 6.30pm to 9.00pm followed by giant screen projection of the “**Last Night of the Proms from the Royal Albert Hall**” until 11.00pm.

Each ticket includes a Hog Roast and dessert.

Full licensed bar will be available.

All profits in aid the Countess of Brecknock Hospice
and Wherwell Playing Fields.

Adults £15; Children £10; and Family Ticket £40

Ticket sold in advance only from:

Richard Rowles (01264861101: email richard@rowles.co.uk)

Or Diane Newell (01264720464:

email diane.newell@btinternet.com)

Or via the village website www.wherwell.net



Wherwell Singers Fundraising Concert Raised £1200



Many thanks to the 130 people who came to the recent Wherwell Singers concert which was given in aid of the Wherwell Church Roof Appeal. Thanks also to those who gave generous donations to the appeal which helped us to achieve our target of £1200.

The evening got off to a good start with cocktails outside the church. The choir then sang a mixture of spirituals, anthems and songs from the British Isles. The concert ended with a rendition of the Tequila Samba, which saw brave choir member Val France dancing down the aisle!

Thanks to the many people who help out with Wherwell Singers concerts behind the scenes. A special thank you to our wonderful accompanist Bill Bowley.

Our Christmas concert will include highlights from Handel's Messiah. Details to follow!

Dale Webb



Dates for your Diary



August

1 st	Longstock Park Water Garden open		2.00pm
3 rd	Wherwell Wives Group BBQ	Dancing Ledge	7.30 pm
7 th	Wherwell Coffee Morning	WVH	10.30 am
15 th	Longstock Park Water Garden open		2.00pm
16 th -22 nd	Summer walks with Eryl and Clive Thomsett		
26 th	Magazine Collation	CVH	6.30 pm
28 th	Book Launch	Wherwell Priory	6:00 pm
30 th	Wherwell Playing Fields Sports & Fete	Wherwell Fields	1:00 pm
30 th	Goodworth Clatford Village Fete		1:00 pm

September

4 th	Wherwell Coffee Morning	WVH	10.30 am
11 th	Last Night of the Proms	Wherwell Playing Fields	6:30 pm
18 th	Coffee Morning	CVH	10:30 am
5 th	Golden Opera Moments	Norton Park	5:30 pm

New to Chilbolton

Coffee Morning



To be held in the Village Hall
Every third Saturday of the month,
between 10.30 and 12.pm.



Starting Saturday September the 18th.

Everyone welcome.
This includes all the family

Come for a chat and to meet other villagers.
Have a coffee or tea with biscuits for just £1.

This also includes a raffle
Books and CDs will be on sale

For more information contact Sheila Laughton 860460,
Lesley Boswell 860127 and Debbie Richardson 861082

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA

Theatres:

During August several workshops are being held at The Lights, Andover. For more details tel (01264) 368368 www.thelights.org.uk. Workshops and Theatre Schools are also being held at Theatre Royal, Winchester. For details see www.theatre-royal-winchester.co.uk

11/08/10 to 14/08/10: **Pirates of Penzance**. By Gilbert and Sullivan. A Youth Production at Plaza Theatre, Romsey at 7.30pm. Tickets £6 on 11th, £8 on 12th to 14th. Tel (01794) 512987 www.plazatheatre.co.uk

31/08/10 to 03/09/10: **West Side Story**. Presented by RicNic Productions (Youth Theatre Group) at 7.30pm at Theatre Royal, Winchester. Tickets £15-£20 (£13 concession, £12.50 under 16s). Tel (01962) 840440 www.theatre-royal-winchester.co.uk

Music:

01/08, 08/08, 15/08, 22/08 and 29/08: **Sunday Music in the Gardens**. Performed by members of the City of Southampton Concert Orchestra at Hillier Gardens near Romsey from 2 to 3.30pm. Free with normal admission. Tel (01794) 369318 www.hilliergardens.org.uk

06/08/10: **Organ Recital** performed by David Coram at Romsey Abbey at 7.30pm. Tel (01794) 512987. www.romselynet.org.uk/musicromsey.htm

Other events:

July to September: **Beatrix Potter Time**. Various events at Mottisfont Abbey, near Romsey. For details see www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont

01/08/10: **Trout and About**. Local food and produce in Stockbridge High Street from 10am to 4pm.

07/08/10: **Big Fest Event**. Presented by Andover Live at Beech Hurst Park, Andover from 11am to 8pm. Free entry.

28/08/10 **Family Summers' End Picnic** at Hillier Gardens near Romsey. An evening of comedy, craft making and musical entertainment for all the family. Gates open at 6pm. Tickets £12 adults, £8 children (£10 and £6 if booked before 15th August) Tel (01794) 369318 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 every Friday, 7.30am – 1pm

Farmers' Market Dates:

01 Aug 2010–Romsey (Food Festival) 08 Aug 2010 – Winchester
15 Aug 2010 – Andover 29 Aug 2010 – Winchester

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



Help Needed at Boaz



Help Needed at Boaz! www.boazproject.co.uk 01962 761749 / 07971688838

Have you seen the signs for Boaz on the A272 between Three Maids Hill and Hill Farm Garage? Boaz is a charity set up about 5 years ago to provide a horticultural setting for adults with learning disabilities. We lease a large barn and land on Hill Farm, where we keep about a hundred chickens, four lambs and three rabbits. We also have the use of a field in which we grow fruit, vegetables and grow on flowers for hanging baskets and tubs.

Boaz is named after the farmer in the Old Testament who took care of Ruth and married her. We try to look after the adult members who come to us to help learn new skills, feel part of a social group, feel valued and productive. Its purpose is to give dignity and confidence in a happy, safe and supportive environment. As a Christian charity we hope to look after the whole person, mind, body and spirit.

We all meet in the morning over a drink and decide what jobs need doing for the day. There are chickens to feed and clean out, eggs to collect and water bowls to fill. In the field there is weeding, harvesting, sowing and watering. Indoors there is woodwork, cookery, cleaning, washing eggs and craft. We change jobs around so the members have a varied day and have tea breaks and lunch together, which is an important time to mix in together. Members come on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays either for half a day or a whole day. Tuesday is admin day!

Once a month we invite a guest in to lead us in prayer with a short talk. We also walk the farmer's three donkeys around the fields at least twice a week which gives us all exercise in the lovely countryside! Now we are busy harvesting strawberries and salad leaves and keeping the weeds down and watering while our tomatoes, courgettes and beans ripen. We fill our freezer with fruit and vegetables ready to make chutney and jams to sell.

The members are very diverse in their needs and the way they can express themselves. It is a challenge to meet each person's physical, emotional and spiritual needs so they can get a fulfilling experience out of coming to Boaz. We welcome visitors to see what we are doing. We can also cater for larger groups that may like to come and look around Boaz. We can provide delicious home-grown refreshments for a reasonable price!

How you can help:

- **Become a volunteer** – If you like gardening, woodwork, cookery or craft and are comfortable with people with learning difficulties, we would love to hear from you.
- **Please support our project in prayer** – pray for the staff, members, trustees and volunteers. Our members need supervision at all times so it is very intensive.
- **Buy our produce** on sale around the area. We sell our eggs at Barton Stacey Post Office.
- **Support our events** such as Barn Dances, Christmas events and Covert sales. See details on our web site.
- **Share your talents** We need people who have a craft or expertise that they could share on a one-off basis, especially over the winter months.
- **Come and lead our prayers.**

Time on Your Hands?

About 2 years ago I suddenly found I had some time on my hands. I've never been good at sitting still so I decided to look for some volunteering work to do. I approached Age Concern Andover and District (ACAD) because they had been so helpful in the past with providing support and advice for my elderly neighbours and parents.

With all the national advertising, you might be aware of the recent amalgamation of Age Concern England and Help the Aged. However, you might not be aware that all local Age Concern groups are autonomous charities with their own Trustees, staff and volunteers, which they support from grants from local authorities and national charities or from donations. ADAC, based at Town Mills House, Andover, has a staff of 4 part-timers and over 60 volunteers with the objective of promoting the relief and well-being of older people (over 55 year of age) within the central and northern area of the Test Valley Borough.

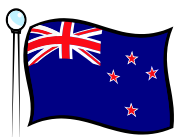
My initial contact was with the Volunteer Co-ordinator and I was quickly recruited as an Appointee. Appointees visit people, at their request, in their homes to provide advice and information. Mostly we help with filling out forms for benefits like Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance. These forms are enormously long and complicated and can cause tremendous anxiety to older people, deterring them from seeking the financial help that they urgently need. This work takes time (each interview can take 2 hours) and patience, but I have met some fascinating people, who have kindly shared their life stories with me with great humour and humility. I usually undertake 1-2 visits per month and it is a tremendously rewarding experience.

There are many other volunteering activities for ACAD. For example volunteers work in the front office (which is open Monday to Friday mornings) and provide weekly transport to activities. However, currently the need is for more Appointees and for service co-ordinators. Such services include activities like organizing the monthly tea dance, the Sunday lunch Group and weekly exercise sessions or afternoon teas. Occasionally special projects are initiated which also require volunteers. In the near future ACAD will be recruiting "Local Link Volunteers" who will help implement a new project linking rural communities to Age Concern.

If you would like to help then please contact The Volunteer Co-ordinator, Age Concern Andover and District, Town Mills House, Andover, SP10 1BL. Tel 01264 354425. Email acandover@hotmail.com. Please note that all volunteers must undertake CRB checks and will receive appropriate training for the work they do.

Diane Newell

Grand Tour 2010 - Part 2 getting underway in NZ



On 31 January, we flew from Hong Kong to Christchurch (South Island) to spend four weeks in New Zealand.

We arrived in Christchurch on a Sunday, and went off to collect our hire car – an ageing Japanese saloon car (Nissan) – perfect for the job! Our challenge was to then to find the YHA hostel – which would be our home for two nights. By the way, the word hostel does not equate to hotel – the letter ‘s’ is the difference – it’s a euphemism for ‘share’! We quickly realised that there were lots of other Brits doing the same as us – young uns (with little money), old uns (with more money) and also a few families, checking out NZ as a place to live. So we weren’t going to be alone!

Our first meal in Christchurch was Thai, which we ate in food hall – the first of many! We then went for a drink in a NZ ‘Pub of the Year’ – Dux de Lux. It was full of local bohemian types and travellers - like us, but somewhat younger! Christchurch is easy to walk around, having a number of civic buildings (old and new), most of which are free to enter. It was here that we did our first guided walk around the centre of the town.

From Christchurch we moved south west to Lake Tekapo, en route to Mount Cook. The scenery was majestic – mountains, lakes and forests. It was very peaceful – we saw very few cars - but of course only 4.5 million people live in NZ and nearly two thirds of them live in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. We drove east to Oamaru, to visit the famous Moeraki Boulders, which are to be found on the beach close by – they look like large stone marbles, standing about four feet high. We continued down the coast to Dunedin – known as ‘Little Edinburgh’ – to see the albatross and yellow-eyed penguins on the Otago Peninsula, as well as a trip on the famous Taieri Gorge Railway.

From Dunedin we travelled to Invercargill, en route to Te Anau. Once again the scenery was amazing – mountains (‘Alp like’), forests and rivers. When we arrived in Te Anau we saw large numbers of foreign tourists – particularly Japanese. The town appears very new, with a great number of good hotels and eateries. Tourism, in all its guises, is clearly vital to the NZ economy.



The next day we took a trip to Milford Sound to travel by boat along one of the beautiful fjords which are to be found in this region. We saw numerous fur seals and dolphins from the boat. On the way back our tour guide asked if we had experienced the earthquake the previous evening – we had, but hadn’t realised it was one! We continued our journey to Queenstown, a very important tourist centre –for both backpackers and wealthy tourists from Asia and Europe. By now, we were regarding ourselves as backpackers – it seemed a cool idea for two old uns!

In Queenstown I experienced the Shotover Jet – a high speed boat ride, alongside the sheer cliffs of a local river gorge. It was my first experience of NZ’s fascination with ‘extreme sports’. It was actually quite tame compared with bungee jumping and white water rafting – but at least I’d done something which my daughter had failed to do when she travelled. ‘One up’ for the oldies!

We then travelled north up the west coast to Franz Josef, where both Hilary and I had an amazing afternoon, when we walked a glacier. It was an incredible experience –

Continued on Page 21

Continued from Page 20

being guided through deep ice crevasses, coloured many shades of blue and white. We wore crampons, which were vital for keeping our foothold. We were now well into our stride (as travellers), moving on to Greymouth, then east to Hanmer Springs, where we indulged ourselves in a hot spring complex, even though it was raining at the time!

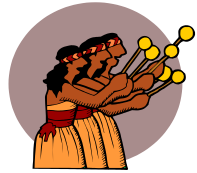


Next stop – Kaikoura for the whale watching. We went out on a very fast catamaran and we were lucky enough to get close to two large sperm whales. The Kiwis really know how to make tourism eco friendly – it’s very impressive. From Kaikoura, we then to Nelson, so that we could visit the Abel Tasman national park, where we took a water taxi along the beautiful coastline, before walking back along the wooded cliff-tops, overlooking the most amazing blue sea.

We left South Island by ferry from Picton to Wellington, where we spent three nights. It is a great capital city – picturesque, vibrant and again with many amazing public buildings and spaces, such as the Te Papa Museum and Zealandia, a nature reserve close to the centre of the city. New Zealand’s informality was demonstrated during a visit we made to the Parliament Buildings where we were encouraged to wave to their Prime Minister. We did think that Gordon Brown may not have been so receptive back in London. Poor old Gordon!

From Wellington we went north-east to Napier, famous for its architecture. It was destroyed by earthquake in 1931 and was rebuilt very speedily in art deco style. It is an amazing place. We were very fortunate to be visiting Napier during its annual art deco celebrations – there were countless ‘30s’ cars and most people were dressed in period clothes. Glen Miller tracks were being played everywhere!

Onward then to Rotorua, the famous NZ spa resort, to experience the various thermal and volcanic springs which are a major feature of the area. Whilst it is very ‘touristy’ the springs were a great sight. We took the opportunity in Rotorua to spend an evening at a Maori show – a ‘hangi’ - where we ate Maori food, learnt a little about the culture and watched dancing, singing and a wonderful performance of the famous ‘haka’, which the All Blacks rugby team perform before every game. They are an impressive people, with a great commitment to their history. We were impressed with how Maori culture is so integrated within New Zealand society as a whole.



After Rotorua, we visited Whitianga, on the beautiful Coromandel Peninsula. As all good backpackers, we made sure we visited ‘Hot Water Beach’, where we watched backpackers digging into the sand to create their own hot rock pools and also ‘Cathedral Cove’. We continued north to our penultimate destination – Pahia, the entry point to the incredible Bay of Islands. We spent a great day at sea visiting some beautiful islands and coves. With the dolphins swimming alongside the boat it was a memorable day.

Our trip to New Zealand ended in Auckland, where the highlights included our visit to Sky Tower, where we watched tourists walking around a 3 feet wide platform, 600 feet above the ground. Scary but typical of NZ and its fascination with extreme sports and pastimes. We also spent a great afternoon on a boat trip round Auckland harbour – the views of the city and its skyscrapers were incredible. What a way to end the first leg of our trip! Next – Australia*Phill Jennison*



CHILBOLTON PLAYERS THE CHALICE

A Murder Mystery by Andrew Coombes

For 3 nights last week, an audience was entertained to a fast moving “who done it” scripted by Andrew Coombes, situated in and around Chilbolton. The aim, to work out who the murderer was and why.

After a picnic edition on the Thursday, an almost full house was served a three course dinner on the Friday and Saturday nights as they watched the plot unfold. Despite many problems with the stage and last minute alterations to the set to compensate for this, a great time was had by all.

Remember to put 26/27th November in your diary – a collection of 3 short plays with a Fairy Tale theme will be the next production. *Carole Marits*

Chilbolton Pre-School



The children have been very busy since half term. The Pre-school Committee very kindly funded a visit from Proteus Theatre Company who performed Poppy’s Magical Machine. We also invited the Reception classes of both Wherwell and Clatford schools. All the children loved the show and the afternoon finished with biscuits and drinks.

Our Sports Day was a great success. It was a beautiful sunny day and the children took part in a variety of races including the sack, running and pick up a teddy races. Then the children did three-legged races with their parents which got very competitive (amongst the parents!). The morning then finished with a picnic.

Ofsted visited us and we spent the morning showing the inspector around our Pre- school. The overall outcome was Good with Outstanding for partnership with parents and we are all really pleased with this outcome. (The report is available to read online.)

The children that are leaving us in July have been visiting their primary schools and teachers have been visiting the children at Pre-school. This creates a smooth transition for the children.

The term will finish with a celebration party which will begin with an entertainer for the children. Parents will arrive mid-morning when the leavers will be presented with a certificate and small gift. The morning will end with a picnic for both children and parents.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the children that are leaving to attend school the best of luck. In addition we would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the last year.

We still have spaces available for 2010/2011 so if you have a child who is approaching pre-school age, please call us soon and arrange a visit.

Wherwell School

The past year has had its challenges, but mainly it has been a very good year.

One of the most refreshing aspects of our school has always been the smiles and good humour of the children, a clear indication they feel safe and enjoy their learning. This focus on a holistic approach to education remains one of our key priorities. Over recent years children have joined us whose lives began far from Wherwell, but their experiences have added much to our understanding of the wider world.

Our Strategic Plan which embraces the latest in technology and child development is showing huge promise throughout the school, with excellent Key Stage 2 SATs results for 2010 – well done to everyone.

As we look forward to 2011, there are a number of changes taking place, we say goodbye to Jane, Jim and Wendy and thank them for their invaluable contribution over the years. At the same time we give a warm welcome to Mary and Helen who will add much to our experienced teaching team.

Changes are also afoot in other areas of the school, the revamped school pond is getting a smart new safety fence, the reception area will undergo a complete redesign over the break, the existing school hall is going to be refurbished, plus a new outdoor classroom is being erected. On the IT front, a review is being completed to possibly replace the entire system, plus a brand new website is being developed ready for September.

As a team we look forward to September with optimism, new pupils, a new team and a smarter school, but above all a commitment to continue developing our young people to achieve to their fullest potential.

Kind regards

Andy King
Head Teachers

Sean Hutton
Chair of Governors

The Hollies

To all the lovely caring people of Chilbolton. Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts for the gift of vouchers you gave to us. During the fire we lost so much of our home, things we collected over the 36 years together. Even though we lost many of our material items, in true life we have lost nothing because our family is still complete, which could have been very different.

Thanks to our dear neighbour Belinda and a dear chap called Mark, (who we have yet to thank properly) we still have our beloved pets. An Extra message from Sue – thank you all so much for the way you all supported Will, while I was still in Spain, with the offer of clothes, food and a bed and lots of TLC.

Much love and sincere thanks,

Will, Sue, Daniel, Nathan, Bruce, Darcy and Denzil xxxxxx

Wherwell Cricket Club on the Up



This season has seen many changes and all for the better as the club tries to build on the effort put in last season. We continued to develop our junior section through the winter months and with Jo Baughen joining us as Junior Co-ordinator we have managed to produce teams that have competed at two age groups, Under 11 and Under 9, although the under 11 side have not yet been victorious there has been a marked improvement in all aspects of their game and we feel sure that a further winter of practice will lead to them being able to challenge next season. Our under 9s side however produced a memorable victory recently away to Michelmersh and Timsbury, this was more surprising in so much as we had never planned to field a team at this level but again it was the effort of Jo that made this happen.

The Junior section is growing and we would hope that it will continue, we would ask anyone interested in more information to contact us through our club website if you have children in the area who would like to play or have time to assist with coaching or match day duties.

Our senior team competes in the Hampshire League North West division 2, as this is being typed we sit 4th in the league having played 9 won 8 and lost 1 match. We are gradually building a strong side and will be pushing to the completion of the season to attempt to progress to a higher level. To keep us able to progress we will need to increase our player numbers which may result in a 2nd 11 being spawned in the coming seasons, 2 years ago we struggled to fill 1 side so this would be remarkable as an achievement and will provide a link for juniors to progress into senior competitive cricket.

As with our junior section this growth does require added support so we are looking for volunteers to assist with Pitch maintenance, Match day Scoring, Umpiring and provisioning of Teas on home match days. Again anyone interested in becoming involved please contact us through the web site.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to our regular event on Sunday the 1st August. We are holding our annual "Sid Rowles Memorial Day" which consists of multiple 6 aside matches played on the short form of the game; it is open to players, ex-players, invited guests and welcome visitors, plus some of our older junior members. For those of you who have enjoyed watching the T20 matches televised this year this may not have the quality but will always prove highly entertaining so please feel free to come along and support us on the day, if the sun shines there are few nicer places to be particularly with the bar open.

Paul Whyton



JANES KITCHEN

You might have thought I was trying to catch you out or it was April not July when I left out the important ingredient in the Rhubarb FOOL. The recipe should have stated 250ml of Double Cream. My apologies.

This is the month for al fresco, picnics and easy meals. Magazines and news papers are full of ideas but there is nothing easier than a simple sandwich. My favourite at the moment is beetroot and cream cheese – smooth, spicy and easy to prepare.

Tip - To cook raw beetroot clean well do not peel or remove too much top or root. Place in a slow cooker with a little water and a table spoon of vinegar. Cook on low for three to four hours. Peel and slice. *Jane Spence*

WHERWELL CRICKET CLUB - SECRETARY REQUIRED

The last two years have seen a dramatic turnaround in the club, with more cricket being played at Wherwell than ever before. Thanks to Jo Baughen, Paul Whyton, and many others we now have Under 11 and under 9 teams playing in the local youth league, and we have 20 kids turning up at practice every week something that Wherwell and Chilbolton hasn't seen for 30 years. Something I'm sure you're all proud to see!

In the last year we have welcomed two new committee members, but we are still looking for a permanent secretary. I hope there is someone reading this how could give a couple of hours a month to help run our small but growing club. Please drop me a line if you are interested, and I can give you more information. *Richard Rowles (Club Chairman) 861101*

Wherwell Playing Fields Sports and Fete

This event on August Bank Holiday is our principal fundraising opportunity.

In recent years it has helped to provide a new pavilion, children's play area and implement shed, as well as continual maintenance of the field and equipment. Our next major projects are a new tennis court, a multi purpose court and fencing the whole field.

We urgently need volunteers on the day to help us run the stalls, sideshows and catering, with the promise of a 'Helpers BBQ' to finish the day! Please contact Sean on 861031 or Ray on 860462 if you can kindly help us make this year's Fete a success. Thank you very much.

Ray Blazdell

Wherwell Playing Fields Sports and Fete

Monday August 30th

1.00 p.m.



Super Sports Star Competition
Children's Sports and Races
with free admission

Jazz Orchestra, Mini Fun Fair
Bar Teas Stalls Sideshows

Hot Dogs and Burgers from 1.00 p.m.
Parking and children free Adults £1 with programme



GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY IN THE AREA AUGUST 2010

Sunday 1st August

Longstock Park Water Garden is open from 2pm to 5pm in aid of Andover Young Carers. Admission is £5 for adults, £1 for children under 14. Teas are available at Longstock Park Nursery. www.longstockpark.co.uk

Saturday 7th August

The Buildings, Broughton, Stockbridge open for The National Gardens Scheme (NGS) from 2pm to 5pm. Admission £3, children free (share to Friends of St Mary's Broughton and St James' Bossington). Home-made teas.

www.ngs.org.uk

Sunday 8th August

The Buildings, Broughton, Stockbridge open for The National Gardens Scheme. Details as 7th August.

Sunday 15th August

Longstock Park Water Garden is open from 2pm to 5pm in aid of XLP Research Trust. Details as 1st August.

Have you ever considered opening your garden with the National Gardens Scheme (NGS)?

Having spent a huge amount of effort over the last 3 years building an English cottage garden from scratch, we thought it a nice idea to contact the NGS to see how our newly constructed haven would stand up to their inspection, with the hope that if it were good enough we would be able to share the fruits of our labours with other NGS enthusiasts. On 3rd July the NGS County Organiser, Patricia Elkington, came to view our garden to let us know whether it was up to the standards required for entry into The NGS Yellow Book.

A few days after making the arrangements with Patricia, we had a call from Japanese National TV who said they were filming the day-to-day activities of the NGS County Organisers and asked if they could film Patricia as she assessed our garden and also interview us about our wish to be in the NGS. This sounded intriguing so we said yes!



On the day, the film crew arrived at 9am and asked for a detailed tour of our garden plant by plant. The filming coordinator, Haruka, translated each word to the cameraman, sound engineer and the film director who took endless notes. The crew then formulated their plan and filmed parts of the garden that were of particular

interest to them, such as the oat grasses as they danced in the breeze.

Unexpectedly, Robert was asked by the film director to lead them around the garden, on film, explaining the different aspects he has created and answering questions about specific plants. Initially he was visibly shaking with nerves but after a while he got into the swing of things and his confidence grew.

About 3pm, Patricia arrived to assess the garden with the film crew in tow. This became another nerve racking experience as we toured the garden answering questions about certain plants and explaining why we had designed the garden in a certain way. After the tour, Patricia went off with the film crew to make comments on film about what she liked and didn't like about the garden.

Continued on Page 28

Continued from Page 27

In traditional 'reality TV' style Patricia then gave us her decision in front of the camera. Luckily it was good news: "The garden is a miracle of engineering to incorporate the steep bank so effortlessly. I think it would be a lovely garden to open". We were delighted. However there are some provisos that we need to address, such as finishing the planned construction work and increasing the planting in some areas. Patricia also said that while our garden is maturing over the next few years, NGS would prefer to offer two or three gardens together – hence our search for anyone in Wherwell, Chilbolton or Fullerton who would like to join us in being part of the NGS (For more information visit: www.ngs.co.uk).

The plan is to open the garden for one weekend in mid June. The reasons are two fold. Firstly, being prior to Wherwell Open Gardens, allows us to publicise this village event to NGS enthusiasts. Secondly, we would be putting our efforts into getting the garden in tip top condition for both events at the same time.

If you are interested in being part of the NGS please call us on 07966 476151 or 01264 860599 and we will come along for a chat to explain more. We will need to get back to NGS by the first week in August, so time is very short!

Robert Lawrence and Sue Filmer

PS: A couple of days after filming the film crew returned to film Robert making some of the changes Patricia had suggested and discussing in more depth the concepts behind the garden design. The 90-minute documentary is scheduled to be shown on Japanese National TV sometime in September 2010 and its purpose is to promote the NGS to Japanese visitors to the UK. Maybe we will have some Japanese tourists visiting Wherwell next year

New Gardens for the National Gardens scheme

We are always looking for gardens to replace owners who retire from the Scheme. The garden doesn't have to be large or grand, but reflect the care and love that the owners put into it. The owners are prepared to share their garden with others, the proceeds going to wonderful charities.

The garden should be well-maintained, with interesting plants and rewarding for the visitor. Size doesn't matter, quality does! Don't be shy, suggest yourself or a friend.

Patricia Elkington Tel 01962 776365

SUMMER WALKS: 16th to 22nd August 2010

There will be a week of walks again this summer and we plan six circular (not linear) walks; this will help with the logistics of having cars in the right place. It is for the whole communities of Chilbolton, Crawley, Littleton, Sparsholt and Wherwell; **all are welcome**.

There will be full length walks of circa ten miles and also half-day walks of circa 5 miles. We are loosely linking each walk to a 'literary giant' and each walk will pass by a building(s) or through a landscape that is linked to the author. **BYO picnic lunch**. The six areas will be:

August	Area	Literary Link	Walk	Distance
Mon 16 th	Minstead, New Forest.	Conan Doyle	Full day Half day (p.m.)	11 miles 5 miles
Tues 17 th	Isle of Wight	Tennyson	Full day	11 to 12 miles (Tide dependent)
Wed 18 th	Chawton	Jane Austen	Full day Half day (p.m.)	10 miles 4 miles
Thurs 19 th	Watership Down	Richard Adams	Half day (a.m.) Full day	5 miles 10.8 miles
Fri 20 th	Selborne	Gilbert White	Half day (a.m.) Full day Half day (p.m.)	5.3 miles 10.3 miles 5 miles
Sat 21 st	Winchester Water Meadows & Twyford	Keats and Trollope	Half day (a.m.) Full day Half day (p.m.)	5 miles 9.5 miles 4.5 miles

In addition we will visit pubs in and around the benefice on four evenings for an evening meal; the week will finish with a BBQ on Sunday 22nd August for all walkers and helpers at Eryl & Clive Thompsett's home in Littleton.

Last year we had over 110 walkers who each walked on average 2.2 walks. It is hoped that all five communities will support this initiative; it will be great to meet you.

Forms for letting us know which walks you want to do will be in each church, village shop (where practical) and pub from the end of May.

Eryl & Clive Thompsett



Bee Diary August 2010



What's the difference between runny and set honey?

This is one of those frequently asked doorstep questions, and the answer is that there is no fundamental difference in the honey that goes to fill the jar, the difference is purely in the preparation of the product at the time of jarring.

However when you buy honey in hot countries such as Greece or Turkey, the honey generally comes from floral sources which produce nectar that does not crystallise. English honey normally crystallises rapidly and sets hard if jarred immediately after extraction from the hive. This is what we call spoon bending honey; it tastes good but is not easy to spread and it bends the silverware.

In order to produce English runny honey and soft set honey, a degree of blending and processing of the honey is required before it is jarred. When we separate the honey from the combs, by centrifuge, the liquid honey is filtered and poured straight into 10 litre (30lb) tubs. It is stored away and will set hard within two weeks. It can stay quite inert for several years if stored in a cool place, although we endeavour to jar it and sell it within a year. I'm told that honey was found in a sealed jar in an Egyptian tomb and was quite edible 3000 years later.

Commercially produced honey is blended from many sources, mostly from imported honey. This enables a brand to taste the same and extreme filtering and heat treatment before it is jarred prevents crystals forming in the honey.

We generally jar honey every 6 weeks or so. Each tub of honey is warmed to 120 degrees Fahrenheit, just about 20 degrees over blood temperature. This causes the honey crystals to melt completely and the honey reverts to a golden liquid just as it came out of the hive. If we are jarring runny honey, this liquid honey is filtered, jarred and labelled.

If we are doing a batch of set honey, one of the tubs is heated for just 12 hours. This causes the set honey to reach a partially melted state, and we use this to seed the fully melted honey in the mixing tank. The seed honey is chosen from one that has very fine crystals and it is stirred into the mixing tank and "creamed" before jarring. After jarring this blend will set into a soft state within a few days.

Spread thickly onto a thick slice of granary bread, forget butter, it is a food for the gods!

Jolyon Pope

Chilbolton & Wherwell Wildlife

Last winter, people were asking me whether the cold weather might have an adverse effect on our butterflies and moths. I suggested that it might be bad for those that normally fly in winter time (some of the moth species), but for the very many butterflies and moths that normally hibernate as caterpillar or chrysalis, it might actually be beneficial – with the cold reducing the risk of fungal infection. In the event, it's been intriguing to see the fluctuation in the numbers of different species.

For example, the Common Fan-foot is a moth species that seems to have done very well in the Test Valley this year. Though its name is “Common”, it is in fact one of the UK's rarest moths – on the “National Scarce A” list and with its own Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). There have been relatively few records in recent years, but this year I've found the Common Fan-foot in Mottisfont, Stockbridge, Chilbolton, and Wherwell. The species winters as a caterpillar, so maybe they survived better because of the cold weather.

I've also trapped in my garden two species of moth that I've not seen before – the Blackneck and the Brown Scallop. These two moths are not particularly common, but nearly all the county moth enthusiasts have been seeing them this year. The Blackneck spends the winter as a small caterpillar, so that matches the theory. On the other hand, the Brown Scallop over-winters as a tiny egg, so not at all clear why that species should be up in numbers.

Another species on the “National Scarce A” list, is the Striped Lychnis moth. As I probably mentioned this time last year, the Stockbridge-Basingstoke-Winchester area is this species' national stronghold. It very rarely comes to light-traps, so the only way to find it and monitor its fortunes, is to look for the caterpillars. Right now, in early-August, is the time to look for them. They are bright yellow-green, with transverse banding of black and yellow blobs and stripes, and are almost always found only on the plants of Dark Mullein (*Verbascum nigrum*) or garden cultivars of that species. Please take a look at any Dark Mullein plants near you - either in your garden or on roadside verges and waste ground nearby, and let me know if you think you've found any Striped Lychnis. Be good to hear from some of you, and I'll report back next month on how they've fared this year.



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