

Chilbolton and Wherwell Community Magazine

The daffodils are out, the birds are singing and we can see them flying over carrying bits in their beaks for nest building and, best of all, the temperature has risen this week to an amazing 17 degrees Celsius - it really is beginning to feel as if summer is on its way – long may it last.

At the end of April we have the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton to look forward to. Sadly if you haven't received your invitation yet, it looks as if you've been passed over. One positive way of viewing this run of bank holidays is for those of you in full time work, you can take an 11 day holiday and you only need to take 3 days out of your annual holiday entitlement – not bad at all!

Hilary Jennison

Thank you to Hilary Jennison, Jim and Maggie Duffy who produced this month's magazine, 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



St Mary the Less Chilbolton EASTER LILIES

We will again be decorating the church for Easter with Lilies. If you would care make a donation in memory of a loved one please let me Jane Spence or any PCC member have your contribution. A card will be in church for you to sign if you wish.

The flower arrangers will be decorating the church from 3pm on Friday 22nd April.

All welcome to help.

Jane Spence

St Peter & Holy Cross Wherwell EASTER LILIES



As usual we will be purchasing some lilies with which to decorate our lovely Church at Easter. Anyone wishing to make a contribution, perhaps to commemorate a family member or friend at this time, may make a donation to either Mrs Margot Hellier or Mrs Jo Baughen.

There will be a sheet at the back of the Church on which to write the names of your loved ones, or alternatively, please give them to Margot or Jo.

Jo Baughen



Tea @ Wherwell village hall on Sunday 13th March at 4-5.30pm
Games, fun activities and tea for all the family

Breakfast@ Chilbolton Rectory on Sunday 27th March at 8.45am followed by the family service at St Mary-the-Less, Chilbolton

Family Bike Rides for all ages and abilities

Dates to be confirmed, watch this space for more information

If you would like any further information, please contact

Rev'd Stuart and Ros Rason, Tel 860258 (parents of Tim, class 4) or

Gaynor and Max Childs, Tel 860044 (parents of Tim, class 3 and Susannah, class 1)



St Mary the Less: Church Cleaning & Maintenance

In order to take care of all the extra housekeeping jobs that are necessary both in the church and the churchyard it has been agreed by the Churchwardens that a 'cleaning/maintenance' morning will be held on the first Monday of each month. This will not replace the normal duty rota for cleaning the church and the brass but give an opportunity to spread the 'spring cleaning' and also provide an extra pair of hands to the normal teams.

If you can spare some time to help – either in or outside the church you will be most welcome.

The first morning will be Monday April 4th 10.30 – 12.00. Coffee break statutory!

Further details from Jane Spence 860726 or Debbie Richardson 861082

Church Services April 2011

	St Mary the Less Chilbolton	St Mary's Crawley	St Catherine's Littleton	St Stephen's Sparsholt	St Peter & Holy Cross Wherwell
Sunday 3rd April Mothering Sunday					
Mothering Sunday service	10.00 am				10.00 am
Family Communion with Thanksgiving for Baptism			10.00am		
FC for Mothering Sunday				10.00 am	
Morning Worship with Thanksgiving for Baptism		10.00 am			
Wednesday 6th April					
Holy Communion			9.30 am		
Westholme Service			2.30 pm		
Sunday 10th April Passion Sunday					
Holy Communion				8.00 am	
Family Communion		10.00 am	10.00 am		
Welcome Worship				10.00 am	
Morning Prayer	10.00 am				
'Crucifixion' by Stainer			6.00 pm		
Evensong					6.00 pm
Wednesday 13th April					
Holy Communion			9.30am		
Sunday 17th April Palm Sunday					
Holy Communion		8.00 am	8.00am		
Morning Worship with Donkey			10.00 am		
Family Service for Palm Sunday					10.00 am
CW Holy Communion for Palm Sunday	10.00 am				
Matins with Donkey				10.00 am	
Choral Devotion		6.00pm			
Wednesday 20th April					
Holy Communion	10.30 am		9.30 am		
Sung Compline		8.00 pm			
Thursday 21st April Maundy Thursday					
Flowerdown HC			2.30 pm		
Holy Communion with vigil				8.00 pm	
Agape Supper @ Dancing Ledge	With WH				7.00 pm
Friday 22nd April Good Friday					
Easter Garden		10.30 am			
Good Friday Meditation	2.00 pm		12 (noon)		With CH
Saturday 23rd April					
Easter Garden			10.00 am		
House Communion			10.00 am		
Sunday 24th April Easter Day					
Holy Communion		8.00 am			
Family Communion	10.00 am		10.00 am	10.00 am	
Easter Morning Worship		10.00 am			

Easter Morning Worship with HC					10.00 am
Service of Peace & Healing			6.00 pm		
Wednesday 27th April					
Holy Communion			9.30 am		
Meditation			7.00 pm		

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
St Peter & Holy Cross Wherwell**
All villagers welcome



7.30 pm on 28th April 2011

Lion's Den, White Lion, Wherwell

Refreshments at 7pm

Karis Kids

Karis Kids is a Christian charity, founded by Tim and Pippa Peppiatt of Littleton, to bring hope to children orphaned by AIDS. They currently work in the slums of Kampala in Uganda, but have been hoping to extend their work for some time. Our Diocese has a link with the Diocese of Madi and the West Nile in the North of Uganda, where the needs are just as great, and I am hopeful that we will want to see Karis Kids working with our contacts in that Diocese.

What appeals to me so much about this charity is that it builds relationships between individuals and families in this country with Ugandan families. It is also very flexible, and extremely well run, and all the money given goes directly to help the children. Karis Kids aim to make a difference, to change lives, and to show some of the most vulnerable and needy children that they are loved and valued by God.

On 18th May at 8.00pm in Crawley Village Hall there will be an opportunity to hear about the work of Karis Kids, this meeting is open to all who are interested, so please come, at the very least you will find Pippa and Tim's presentation inspirational, and it may change your life too.

Juliet Montague

Pause for Thought

THE RECTORY
LITTLETON

April 2011

Dear Friends

Some of you will know that I find Good Friday the most powerful day in the Christian Calendar. I hope that does not make me seem a masochist, it is not the notion of Jesus being crucified that fascinates me but rather the extraordinary generosity that is shown in every word he spoke at that time, and how that transforms us and our way of seeing the world.

Take for example the words ‘Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing’ (*Luke 23.34*). Forgiveness is not particularly high on many people’s agenda these days; they would rather have their ‘pound of flesh’. Litigation keeps many lawyers in business and accountability and retribution are often what people demand. Forgiveness may seem, by contrast, to be rather a weak option and Jesus’ words can make us feel uncomfortable. How can he find it in his heart to have such compassion on those who were nailing him to a cross?

When we read of a young person like Jo Yeats being callously murdered or a baby dying at the hands of his mother’s boyfriend or an elderly person savagely assaulted in their own home forgiveness is the last thing on our minds. Perhaps we even find ourselves toying with the notion of bringing back the death penalty for those who deliberately and callously take the life of an innocent and vulnerable victim.

At least, we feel that they ought to earn their forgiveness by suffering remorse, guilt and punishment; forgiveness ought not to be cheap. That is for most of us, the fairly normal reaction when we are faced with the kind of atrocity that Jesus faced on that first Good Friday. The trouble with being unable or unwilling to forgive is that it does not often hurt the one we would like to punish. The only person who really gets hurt is the one who withholds forgiveness, the one who

becomes vengeful and bitter. For the bitter feelings we cling to eat into our soul, and take over our lives.

A prayer was found by the body of a dead child in Ravensbruck concentration camp, which shows how forgiveness can triumph over suffering. The unknown author wrote:

'O Lord, remember not only the men and women of good will, but also those of ill will. But do not remember all the suffering they have inflicted on us; remember the fruits we have bought, thanks to this suffering -- our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility, our courage, our generosity, the greatness of heart which has grown out of all this, and when they come to judgement let all the fruits which we have borne be their forgiveness'.

At the heart of every hotbed of violence in the world lies the unwillingness to forgive and the desire to avenge old wounds. It is those who simply will not forgive and cannot forget who become bitter and twisted.

But Christ was above such bitterness. It seems that what he says cannot be true. How could they not know what they were doing, - those who carried out such a determined, malicious and cruel assault upon an innocent man - of course they must have known that they were killing a man they could not justly condemn, but Jesus gives them the benefit of the doubt, accepting perhaps that they did not recognise him as the Christ, the Son of God.

Why did he do this extraordinary act of mercy? Certainly he demonstrated beyond all doubt that no-one is beyond the reach of the forgiving and redeeming love of God, and that must bring comfort and hope to us all, for there is not one of us who, at some time in our lives, has not needed to feel the consolation of his love and forgiveness. So even in the midst of horror, suffering and tragedy, even where people have carried out terrible, sickening acts, Christ says the words that we find so hard to say, 'Father, forgive them, they know not what they do', offering the opportunity for repentance, the chance to turn away from evil towards a new life, and the hope of salvation.

*With love in Christ,
Juliet*



Daffodil Sunday

17th April 2011

2pm – 5pm

in Binley near St Mary Bourne

*Two glorious gardens with woodland walks,
homemade teas, plant stall, cakes, & raffle*

Entrance £2.00 - dogs 50p (to be kept on leads)

*The gardens will be well sign-posted
from Stoke and St Mary Bourne*

In aid of Andover Riding for the Disabled

Charity no 1073578

Children's Society Fabric Sale

There is to be a fabric sale (Colefax & Fowler & Jane Churchill) at Wolvesey by kind permission of the Bishop & Mrs Scott-Joynt on Wednesday 6th April from 10.30am to 12 noon.



The sale is combined with a coffee morning and pictures will be on sale at this event.

Cash or cheque from £7-£12 per metre. Contact Miss Adele Bantle (01962 849574)

Sent in from the Benefice Office



Chilbolton Auction of Promises

FRIDAY 20TH MAY

In aid of St. Mary the Less Church

Come and join us for:

Bargains galore

Free food and cheap wine

Make up a table with your friends

Programme available soon

7.00pm – Auction starts 7.30pm

More details:

Jennie Pope 860852

Test Valley Woodlands in Spring

Come and enjoy the bluebells



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

3 Saturdays, 10-12noon, 30 April, 7 and 14 May. Cost £25

First session - Chilbolton Village Hall

Second and Third sessions - Harewood Forest - meeting point arranged in 1st session.

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

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN

Children are still being affected by the fallout from Chernobyl and a group will be visiting this area shortly. We shall be entertaining them to lunch and games as before. The children benefit health wise so much from being here for a month and experiencing fresh air and eating good food.

As in other years, gifts of good quality children's clothes of all ages together with small backpacks to take them home in would be much appreciated. If you have anything suitable, please bring to 28 Test Rise before the end of April. Thank you very much.

Annette Keys



Wherwell Fete – Bookstall – URGENT!!

We are desperately looking for someone to take on the running of the BOOK STALL for the Wherwell church street fete, this year taking place on Saturday 11th June.

Anyone keen (or even willing!) to take on the books please contact Susanne Horne 860741 or Claire on 720231.

Time for clearing out, do remember the various stalls at the fete and put aside any useful clean bric-a-brac, books, toys, etc.

Claire Henderson



GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY IN THE AREA APRIL 2011

Sunday 3rd April

Longstock Park Water Garden is open in aid of Hamble Valley Rotary Club from 2pm to 5pm. Admission £5, children £1. Teas are available at Longstock Park Nursery. www.longstockpark.co.uk

Friday 8th April

Mottisfont Abbey & Garden, near Romsey. Gardens open for The National Gardens Scheme from 10am to 5pm. Admission £8.50, children £4.50.

www.ngs.org.uk

Sunday 10th and Tuesday 12th April

Crawley Gardens open for The National Gardens Scheme from 2pm to 5.30pm. Combined admission £5, children free. Home-made teas in the Village Hall in aid of Crawley Village Hall Trust. www.ngs.org.uk

Sunday 17th April

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

Sunday 17th April

Ramridge Cottage, Weyhill, Andover. Garden open for The National Gardens Scheme from 2pm to 5pm. Admission £4, children free.

www.ngs.org.uk

Friday 22nd and Tuesday 26th April

Little Court, Crawley, near Winchester. Gardens open for The National Gardens Scheme from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is £3.50, children free. Home-made teas at Village Hall in aid of Crawley Village Hall Trust.

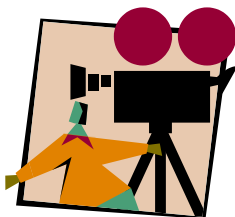
www.ngs.org.uk

Fun Run 2011: Sunday 3rd April

This will be the 5th annual Fun Run through Harewood forest. This year we will have the usual 11k, but for those who are less confident there will be a shorter 7.5k. Registration from 9.30am at the Wherwell Pavilion. All proceeds are split between the Wherwell Playing Fields and Wherwell Primary School. For further information contact Claire Pigott.



Tel: 01264 860522. Pre-register www.wherwellfunrun.com



Film Show – NGS Gardens

Wherwell Village Hall

Sunday 15th May - 4.45pm to 6.30pm

(Doors open 4.30pm)

NGS Gardens is a Japanese National TV documentary about the UK's National Garden Scheme. Sue & Robert's garden in High Street, Wherwell is featured along with thirteen other gardens from around the UK.

It was watched by more than seven million viewers when it was broadcast in Japan in October 2010. In addition to seeing some fascinating gardens, the documentary paints a beautiful perspective of the English summer countryside and gives a charming insight into the passion that the British have for their gardens. Luckily most of the dialogue in the film is in English with Japanese voiceover in places.

At the film show, Robert & Sue will give a brief introductory chat about their filming experience and explain how a Wherwell garden ended up on Japanese TV. They have invited some of the other gardeners featured in the film to join them on the day.

To reserve a seat at the film show, please contact:

Sue on 01264 860 599

Robert on 07908 735757

r.dlawrence@btopenworld.com

There will be a charge of £1 per head to cover the hire of the village hall; any surplus will be added to the money collected on the Wherwell Gardens Open Day, which goes towards village hall funds.

After the film show, Sue & Robert's garden will be open to visitors (weather permitting). This article, with links to Robert's photo albums, can be viewed on the Wherwell website at:

<http://www.wherwell.net/gardening-in-wherwell.htm>

Sue Filmer & Robert Lawrence

Sharon Goss

My brother-in-law, David Goss, has asked me to write to say that my sister, Sharon Goss, sadly passed away this week (Tuesday 8th March) and he wondered if you could please put this in the Chilbolton & Wherwell magazine.

Sharon lived at the Old Chapel, Wherwell and was a very popular resident of the village – she will be sadly missed.

Sandra Carver



Afternoon Tea at
The White Lion, Wherwell

Monday 11 April, 3pm

£2.00 tea, cake and raffle

Do come along. ALL welcome (regardless of age!)

AGE
Concern

Age Concern Andover and District

We shall be **Age UK Andover & District** from 1st April

Do remember: Our office is open every weekday morning
for enquiries in person or by phone 01264 354425

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

This month, indeed, this week, nominations for election to the Parish Councils have to be lodged with Test Valley Borough Council. **The deadline for nominations is noon on 4th April, so applicants have to act quickly.** The actual vote will be on 5th May.

To be a councillor you need to love your village and be ready to do a modest amount of work to keep it a great place to live. There are plenty of people like this in our community and I hope they will offer their services. This applies particularly to younger members. So, if you think you might stand for election, contact Liz Blakemore, Clerk to both Parish Councils on 860385 who has the nomination papers. But do not delay.

CHARITY GARAGE SALE

Saturday, 9th April

10am to 12.30pm at 1 Paddock Field, Chilbolton

Books, DIY, car & photographic equipment and many other items.
All proceeds to Naomi House Children's Hospice & Chilbolton Church

Bargain prices - Come and support your local charities

John Shrimpton

Wherwell Singers
Summer Concert
Anthems for the 21st century
Vivaldi's Gloria



Saturday 18th June 2011 at 7:30pm

Please note that the concert will be held at St. Peter's Church,
Stockbridge as Wherwell Church is likely to be closed

Tickets: £7 (£5 concession)
Available from Dale Webb (01264) 860074
And on the door

What do you want from your Village Hall?

Many village hall events are well attended by our reliable 'regulars' and we are very grateful to them for their support. However, the Village Hall Management Committee is very conscious that there are some groups within the village that do not use the Hall on a regular basis and we would like to know what events or activities might encourage wider participation.

Suggestions I have received informally are activities for teenagers, the very elderly/disabled (tea clubs), health type groups (slimming/healthy eating) etc. The activities do not necessarily need to take place within the hall – the Durnford Room can be hired at minimal expense for meetings to plan events and activities.

There are grants available for many initiatives and the Village Hall Committee will be more than happy to assist in submitting shared proposals for funding.

If anyone has any suggestions, please contact me. Many thanks

Maureen Treadwell 860380
Email: maureen@sycamoresbb.freeserve.co.uk

Wherwell Parish Council

Ten members of the public and County Cllr. Andrew Gibson and District Cllr. Jim Neal attended the recent PC meeting.

Residents of Mill Court informed the PC of their concerns regarding the increase of their rents by 11%. Cllr Neal is to take this up with Testway Housing and he will bring this to the attention of local MP Caroline Nokes.

Mrs Nokes has been contacted regarding the huge recent increases in the cost of fuel and the effect it has on village residents who have to rely on cars for transport.

Serious concerns were expressed to the council, by a local resident, regarding cars speeding through the village. Whilst walking with a small child he had been forced to dive into the hedge to avoid them both being run over. It is frustrating that the PC has repeatedly approached HCC and the police about restricting the speed of vehicles. We are told that there is nothing they can do about this nor about the size of the lorries that come through the village. In future if any pedestrian experiences a similar situation please contact Richard Rowles Tel: 861101, the neighbourhood watch co-ordinator, for an incident report form that will be passed on to the police or ring the police on either **101 or 0845 045 45445**. The PC will continue to lobby for a speed limit of 20mph through the centre of villages

On a more positive note Cllr Neal confirmed that, following a spate of accidents, a speed limit of 40 mph is to be instigated along part of Longparish Road.

The PC had no objections to the planning applications for alterations to Rosemary Cottage Church Street, the demolition of an extension at 6 Chant close, internal and external alterations to Flat 2, Fullerton Manor, the change of use of farm buildings at Cottonworth Farm and the tree works at Ivy Cottage, High Street.

A grant of £500 to the PC from Cllr Gibson's devolved funds has been given to the church restoration fund.

Concerns are to be passed on to the PCC regarding the condition of the old flint wall at the bottom of Church, as it thought that the damage is being caused by the proximity of trees on church ground.

A grit bin to be positioned in the vicinity of the church car park cannot be provided by HCC as it would be on church land.

Work is continuing on the local walks leaflet and the information to be included on three mapboards to be sited in the village centre, by the Longbridge and at Fullerton. TVBC has produced a new leaflet entitled the Sprat and Winkle Line – which was the name of the old railway line that ran through the Test Valley from Redbridge, Southampton to Andover junction.

Copies of this fascinating leaflet are available in the White Lion or from TVBC.

It is frustrating that due to some legal complications the commencement of work, for the footpath down from Chant Close, has been delayed. We are very pleased however that Testway Housing has agreed to contribute £4K to the cost.

The playing fields' committee are seeking grants to renovate the tennis courts. Offers of help from anyone interested in playing tennis in the future would be very welcome and the work might then get completed quicker! The junior section of the cricket club now has 20 members including several girls. It is hoped that funding can be found to install some badly needed new cricket nets.

Following the Village Conversation reported in last month's magazine an initial tea afternoon was recently held at the White Lion which was well attended and had visitors from Andover, Longparish and Chilbolton. Further events will be announced soon.

If anyone is interested in standing as a candidate for the Parish Council Elections to be held in 5th May please contact the clerk, Liz Blakemore Tel: 860385.

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year it has been suggested that a mass of assorted bulbs are planted throughout the parish that should then multiply over the years. This would enhance the area and benefit both residents and visitors alike. If you have any comments or other proposals please let me or the clerk know.

The Parish Council was very sad to hear that Sharon Goss had passed away. We send our deepest sympathy to David, Rachel and Adam.

Next PC meeting commencing at 7.00pm in the Colonel Jenkins' Hall on Tuesday 12th April.

Jane Andrews 860635 email: flyjohnandrews@aol.com

WHERWELL WIVES

But you don't have to be married or live in Wherwell to come!

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 26th APRIL at 8pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**VICTOR FAUVELLE will give a talk on his career as a fine arts auctioneer
FEE £2 for NON MEMBERS Refreshments will be served**

Pam Flanagan 860560

Jane Andrews 860635

Chilbolton Parish Council

The Parish Council met as usual on March 1st the first Tuesday in the month. We heard that the village now own the Grade 2 listed telephone kiosk on Grindstone Green and the Amenities Officer, Cllr Gossling, is open for suggestions as to how it might be used.

The Play Area project is now at a critical stage. Funding no longer seems a major constraint and the legal aspects are being sorted out. The next phase will be to brief those most affected prior to letting a contract to install the preferred equipment.

The Council considered the routine reports, noting the repairs to the road at Gravel Hill and in Drove Road. The Flood Advisory Group had little to say, except to note that the river flow is still well below seasonal average. The promised work on the Common has been completed as has been the pollarding of the willows by the Purligig Bridge. An earth bund shielding the allotments from the dangerous corner by Martins Lane has been approved and work to build it will start shortly.

As for the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, the Council were pleased to see that Maria Watson has now had a better response and it can now be said to be up and running. Please continue to give her your support.

The most important matter facing the Parish Council now is the Council Election on Thursday 5th May. Nominations have to be at TVBC's offices at Beech Hurst by noon on the 4th April. Nomination papers are now available from Liz Blakemore, the Parish Clerk. The point to note is the need for urgency. If you are an energetic villager, committed to keeping our village as beautiful as it is and would like to join the Parish Council, then act today. The demands on your time will be modest and Council work can be made to fit your busy domestic schedule. Chilbolton needs and deserves your support, so please act now.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8pm on Tuesday 5th April in the Durnford Room of the Village Hall.

Jeremy Baines
Chairman, Chilbolton Parish Council



Middy Mums

There will be no meeting this month
Please put Monday 16th May in your diary for next month.

Susan Ansell 860775

Wherwell History Group



An Illustrated talk by
Jan Smith

ARCHIVES IN THE ATTIC

THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF AN ARCHIVIST'S LIFE

At
Colonel Jenkins'
Memorial Hall
Wherwell
SP11 7JJ



Friday 15th April
at 8.00pm

All Welcome - Admission £3.00 - Tea/Coffee & Biscuits included



DIARY DATES



April

1st	Film - 'Red'	CVH	6.45pm
2nd	Coffee Morning	WVH	10.30am
3rd	Wherwell Fun Run	Wherwell Sports Pavilion	9.30am
4th	Red Garter Club	CVH	8pm
5th	Chilbolton Parish Council	CVH	8pm
10th	Dawn Chorus Walk - West Down top car park		6.00 AM
11th	Age Concern Afternoon Tea	White Lion	3pm
12th	Wherwell Parish Council	WVH	7pm
15th	Wherwell History Group	WVH	8pm
16th	Coffee Morning and Neighbourhood Watch	CVH	10.30am
17th	Daffodil Sunday	Binley	2pm
19th	Chilbolton WI	CVH	7.30pm
26th	Chilbolton Horticultural Society Talk and AGM	CVH	7.45pm
26th	Wherwell Wives	WVH	8pm
28th	Magazine Collation	CVH	
28th	Annual Parochial Meeting - White Lion		7pm for 7.30
30th	TV Woodlands in Spring	CVH	10-12 noon

May

3rd	Chilbolton Parish Council	CVH	8pm
7th	Coffee Morning	WVH	10.30am
10th	Red Garter Club	CVH	8pm

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA

Theatres:

31/03/11 to 23/04/11: **The Game of Love and Chance** by Pierre Marivaux. Performances at 7.30pm (Mon-Wed), 2.30pm & 8pm (Thu & Sat, no matinee 31/03 & 02/04), 8pm (Fri) at Salisbury Playhouse. Tickets £14-£20. Tel (01722) 320333 www.salisburyplayhouse.com

08/04/11: **Wayne Sleep in Precious Little Sleep**. At Theatre Royal, Winchester at 8pm. Tickets £19.50. Tel (01962) 840440 www.theatre-royal-winchester.co.uk

12/04/11 to 16/04/11: **Gypsy**. Music by Jule Styne, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Presented by RAODS at Plaza Theatre, Romsey at 7.30pm (2.30 matinee on 16/04). Tickets £7 on 12/04, £9 for other performances. Not suitable for under 5's . Tel (01794) 512987 www.plazatheatre.co.uk

12/04/11: **Ha Ha Holmes-The Beast of the Blistervilles**. A comedy thriller in two acts at The Lights, Andover at 7.45pm. Tickets £14-£15 (concessions £13). Tel (01264) 368368 www.thelights.org.uk.

Music:

08/04/11: **Hazel O'Connor and the Bluja Project** performing at The Lights, Andover at 7.45pm. Tickets £16-£17 (concessions £15). Tel (01264) 368368 www.thelights.org.uk.

09/04/11: **Southampton Concert Orchestra**: Performing at Romsey Abbey at 7.30pm. Tel (01794) 512987. www.romseynet.org.uk/musicromsey.htm

23/04/11: **Stacey Kent** performing at Theatre Royal, Winchester at 8pm. Tickets £18 (concessions £16). Contact details given above.

Other events:

22/04/11 to 25/04/11: **On the Trail of the Chocolate Egg**. Solve puzzles around the Gardens to win a chocolate Easter prize.

24/04/11 & 25/04/11: **Creative Crafts for Easter Time**. 1pm to 4.30pm. Both events at Hillier Gardens near Romsey. Gardens open 10am to dusk. Free with normal admission. 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 outside the Guildhall every Friday, 7.30am – 1pm

Farmers' Market Dates:

03 Apr 2011 – Romsey

10 Apr 2011 – Winchester

17 Apr 2011 – Andover

24 Apr 2011 – Winchester

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

Cancer Research UK Charity Cycle ride

Chilbolton is fast becoming the Cycling Adventure capital of Hampshire! Our neighbours have cycled through China and to other exotic locations, so Europe seems quite tame.

Last year, along with 20 friends, we were able to raise nearly £100k for the Cancer Research Charity by cycling from Winchester to Gibraltar. The initiative was under the brand 'Inspired Living' – ordinary people doing extraordinary things! The **aim was and is to inspire ordinary men & women to adopt healthier lifestyles to reduce their risk of contracting cancer, increase their quality of life and raise money for Cancer Research.**

Last year our group cycled over 2,000 kms through France and Spain to Gibraltar but this year we are going to cycle "**Italy Top to Toe**". The team includes two Chilbolton Parish Councillors, Martin Gossling and Andrew Gibson plus Andrew's son Tom. We will start in Chiasso, Switzerland on the 15th June 2011 and cycle through Milan, Bologna and then down the Adriatic coast. The route then cuts across Italy and down to Sicily where we will arrive on the 26th June 2011. Progress will be recorded on the Inspired Living website www.inspiredliving.org.uk and we will carry tracking devices so that our progress can be recorded in real time. There will also be a daily Blog.

If you wish to support the funding drive please contact the Just Giving page on the website. If you would like to know more about the cycle or CRUK, please contact Andrew on 07802878248

Cycle4Life 2011 on 4th September, 2011 for the Tour of the Meon Valley starting at St Swithun's School, Winchester with 3 route options 25kms/50kms/100kms

Andrew Gibson

Wherwell School PTA Spring Term Newsletter



At long last Spring is here and you know what that means – it's time for the Fete! This year our theme will be 'Food' to celebrate the newly refurbished children's kitchen, funded by the PTA. It is intended that Food Technology will now play a much more significant role in the curriculum. The children were so excited to find the new kitchen waiting for them after Half Term and Class 5 pressed it into service almost immediately by making pizzas for their lunch.

Claudia Salazar-Lewis (mother of Luciana, Year R) generously volunteered to oversee this project and has, without doubt, done an exceptional job. Our sincere thanks to Claudia for all her hard work.

Quiz and Curry Night – Friday 11th February An extremely entertaining evening attended by parents, teachers, Governors and village residents. Emma Way provided a delicious curry and Debra Armstrong made sure there was plenty to exercise the 'little grey cells'. Congratulations

to the 'My Brain Hurts' team who won for the second year. Any challengers for 2012?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fun Run – Sunday 3rd April There is still time to dust off your trainers for the Annual Fun Run through Harewood Forest. This year there will be 11k and 7.5k courses and you can register online at

www.wherwellfunrun.com. If you need the perfect excuse not to run, volunteer as a marshal! Contact Claire Piggot for more information.

SPRING FETE – SATURDAY 21ST MAY Preparations are already well underway for this year's major fundraising event which, as mentioned, will follow a food theme. There will be plenty of stalls to peruse and games to amuse, a barbecue, drinks tent and traditional tea tent, a prize draw and performances by the children in the central arena. There will also be a creative competition for the children in the weeks leading up to the fete and their entries will be on display on the day.

But (there's always a 'but' isn't there?!) more volunteers are needed so if you can spare the time to help, please contact either Debra Armstrong or Jo Hancocks. Now all we need is the sunshine!

Easyfundraising Don't forget you can now support the PTA when you shop online. Just register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk, select Wherwell School PTA as your chosen organization, then access all your favourite shops from their website. Each purchase earns a donation for the PTA.

Chilbolton Horticultural Society AGM and Members' Slide Show

**Tuesday April 26th 2011 7:45pm
Chilbolton Village hall**

People wishing to join our small friendly society are very welcome.

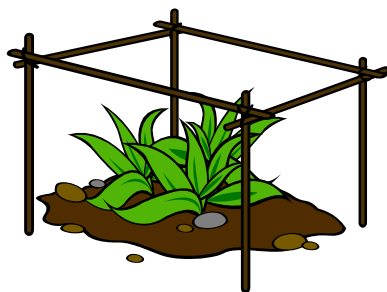
Annual membership £7.50. Our programme for the coming year includes

An annual flower show

An evening walk for wildlife

Garden visits

Illustrated talks on subjects of interest to the gardener



Sheila Evans

Chilbolton Dance Group

In the Parish Magazine for February 2011, there was a copy of a Press Cutting about the Girls from Utopia, and an appeal for help with contacting their teacher and choreographer Marianne Frost. We had responses from three local people, and were able to contact Marianne and receive photographs and historical information. Marianne writes:

"I moved to Chilbolton in 1979, and after a couple of months I realised there was not much to do for the children and teenagers from the village. Because of my passion for dance, and being involved through my career for many years, I decided to start up the Dance Group. About the same time, I started weekly Keep Fit classes for ladies in Chilbolton and Wherwell, which were held in both village halls.. The dance group ran on Sunday nights for the over 12s and Saturday mornings for the younger children. These classes became very popular and attracted members from both villages, plus a few from Andover. I started with about 15 members and after a few months the number had grown to 50 plus (see 1985/86 photo below)"



If you can recognise any of the faces above, please visit the Wherwell website page <http://www.wherwell.net/chilbolton-dance-group.htm>

"Within a year I had taken the most talented dancers and formed Utopia. They went on to perform in shows, night clubs, fetes, parties etc., and were soon dancing in the top London clubs, including the famous Hippodrome. They became very well known in the local area, and appeared in the local paper many times. I arranged yearly shows in both village halls, and then progressed to the Cricklade theatre. By 1982, from jumble sales, sponsored walks etc., we had raised sufficient funds to buy an old 15-seater mini bus. Ron Waite, who worked in the garage behind Chilbolton shop, sprayed the van free of charge."

UTOPIA

performing at
Chilbolton Village Hall

Top Row: Nicky Geary
 Julie North
 Sharon Stickland

Bottom Row: Jackie Dunne
 Emma Barrett
 Joanne Lincoln



"We were now on the road in our 'fab' burgundy and gold van. It was beautifully sign written on the sides "UTOPIA" with gold stars and "CHILBOLTON DANCE GROUP" on the back doors. Our van took us camping to Hayling Island and on one special occasion all the way to the south of France for 2 weeks. By now, Utopia were dancing all over the South of England. They entered many dance competitions ... and they always won !!!"

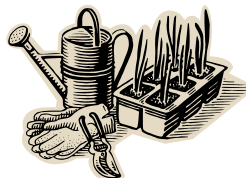
Marianne (now known as Marianne Rouse) is still teaching to this day, and running a dance club with her daughter Emmeline; - "F.L. Dance" in Andover has over 200 members.

Marianne Rouse & Andrew Flanagan

Potting up for Spring?

Wanted for the Wherwell Church Fete on June 11th

- Vegetable plants
- Flowers – annuals & perennials
- Shrubs & trees
- Gardening books
- Garden furniture & ornaments



If you can help, please deliver to the stall on the day or call us to collect:

Diane at Silver Birches
Longparish Road
Tel: 720464

OR

Jo at 2 Fairpiece
Wherwell
Tel: 860319



Jane's kitchen

Lemons are a traditional ingredient in Easter celebration fare and the following is a delicious and easy to prepare tart to finish a family meal or for

- 1 x short crust pastry case measuring approx 8"
- 3 oz Caster Sugar
- 1 large Egg
- 3 oz butter or margarine
- 4 oz cake crumbs (soft trifle sponges are ideal for this)
- Grated rind and juice of two medium lemons

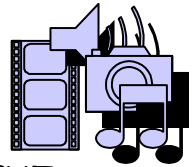
Cream the butter and sugar till soft and creamy. Add beaten egg. Stir in lemon juice and rind and finally the crumbs. Mix well and pour into pastry case

Bake in mod to hot oven 180 deg. for approx 45 mins. till firm to touch and golden brown on top.

Sprinkle with caster sugar.

Serve warm or cold with cream, ice cream or crème fraiche

Come to the Movies!!!



CHILBOLTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Proudly Present

RED (12A)

“Still armed. Still dangerous. Still got it”

Former CIA agents (Retired: Extremely Dangerous)
get together for a final assignment to uncover one of the
biggest

cover-ups in government history.

Starring Morgan Freeman, Helen Mirren, Bruce Willis and
John Malkovich

In Chilbolton Village Hall

on

Friday, 1st April, 2011, at 7.30 pm

Doors open 6.45 pm

Tickets £5.00 - In advance

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

Price includes tea/coffee and biscuits

Wince and choc ices will be on sale

To book your ticket, please ring Sheila Laughton on 01264 860460,
Maureen Treadwell on 01264 860380 or Beryl Lawrence on 01264
860618

Chilbolton Church Fete & Village BBQ



Saturday 25th June: 12.30 – 3.30pm

At

DOWN END, Drove Road, Chilbolton

Beer & Pimms Tent

Huge BBQ of Local Produce

Stalls, raffles & Live Music

Fun Dog Show

*Games & Entertainment for all the family
Come and join in all the fun!*

Free Parking

Wherwell Wives Group say “Thank You and Bon Voyage” to Gill



At the Wherwell Wives Group meeting on 22nd February, Gill Granger stepped down from her role as Chairman which she has carried out with great success for the last two years. Gill has resigned to enable her and husband, Peter, to have plenty of time for travelling. Jane Andrews presented Gill with a basket of roses and a rose bush, aptly called “Lovely Lady”, which hopefully will give her pleasure for many years to come.

As no-one has offered to take the role of Chairman, it is hoped that Wives Group will be able to continue with a team of volunteers, each volunteer undertaking to arrange one or two meetings a year. However, we do need more volunteers, so if you think you could help please contact Jane Andrews 860635 or Pam Flanagan 860560.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 26th April, when Wherwell resident Victor Fauvelle will be talking about his life as an auctioneer. All ladies are welcome, you do not have to be a wife!

Pam Flanagan



The theme for the rest of this term is the Royal Wedding and Kings and Queens and the children are already talking about the upcoming Royal Wedding. We will be making flags and crowns, listening to fairy stories and talking about weddings so the children will feel part of the grand occasion.

The children have been pretending to be princes and princesses during the weekly dance sessions.

We recently held a coffee morning which gave the parents an opportunity to visit and see their child's learning journals, meet other parents and talk to their child's key person about their child's progress.

A few weeks prior to this we held a car seat safety coffee morning which was very well attended and one lucky parent won a car seat kindly donated by Britax for our raffle. The money raised has enabled the children to continue to benefit from Merry Go Round and Dancing with Clare, both of which are funded by money raised at pre-school events.

Talking of which, watch this space for details of some upcoming events including a Family Fun Day and a summer BBQ, both of which are in the early stages of preparation.

The bulbs are coming up in our sensory garden and we are looking forward to spending lots of happy hours in this new garden. If there are any keen gardeners out there who would be willing to give us hand, they would be most welcome. At the moment we rely on some kind mums but we could do certainly do with some help.

We continue to enjoy strong links with both Wherwell and Clatford schools and have welcomed many new children from the surrounding villages this term. If you would like your child (aged 2-5) to have the opportunity to attend this unique and beautifully situated learning environment, then please do contact us for more information or to arrange a visit.

*Call 07732 095814 or 07919 130777 or email willrj@hotmail.co.uk
www.chilboltonpreschool.com*



Chilbolton Neighbourhood Watch Report

It was good to see so many people at the coffee morning meeting at the Village Hall on 19 February and I was able to gather a lot of useful information. Particular thanks are due to those who agreed to be area representatives and I will have a schedule of who is covering which areas at the next coffee morning on 16 April 10.30 to 12

noon. I would also like to thank all those who signed up to become members as the more we have the more effective the association will be.

On 3 March we had a good demonstration of the effectiveness of our NW. Many will remember that two young doorstep household goods salesmen appeared in the village having been bussed in from an outside town. I had three calls and the police were also contacted directly about them. The police caught up with them in Branksome Avenue and having checked their IDs and merchandise allowed them to continue. Your NW team is now working with the police and council to declare Chilbolton a “No Cold Calling Zone”.

It has been mentioned that some people leave their curtains fully drawn when they go away. Perhaps consideration should be given to the fact that this may only serve to highlight that the house is empty.

Maria Watson

Maria Watson 860415

e-mail: mwatson.cottage@hotmail.co.uk



Wherwell Neighbourhood Watch – Item 1

It’s not often that crime happens in Wherwell, but we were all shocked to learn that two cars were stolen recently. So we have been spurred into action and have begun re-kindling the NHW for Wherwell. I stuck my head above the parapet so I’m leading our efforts.

The action we have taken so far; at the Coffee morning on Saturday the 5th March at the Village hall we were getting people signed up. I’m setting up an email group so that people can sign up via the website. I have also been in touch with trading standards and the home office so we are on their emailing lists so I can pass relevant information on to the group. I have ordered various leaflets from the Home Office which our coordinators can distribute.

We are still looking for coordinators for various areas of the village if you would like to get involved. This is mostly delivering a few leaflets and keeping in touch with people on your patch.

If you would like to get involved please contact Richard Rowles – details below.



Neighbourhood Watch Wherwell – Item 2 Road Traffic Incidents

A number of parents have had close shaves with traffic on the main road in Wherwell. If you have had an incident, however small, we need to build a body of evidence to support the authorities in taking action to correct these problems.

Please make sure you pick up an incident report from either me or your new coordinator. We will be distributing them in the village for you to have on hand as soon as we get them.

Richard Rowles 861101
E-mail Richard@rowles.co.uk

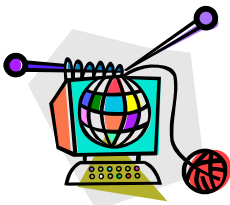


Zumba dancing in Chilbolton

Never heard of it? Neither had I until a few weeks ago when a neighbour persuaded me to go along to Chilbolton village hall one Monday afternoon to a session. Now - I'm hooked. What an easy way to have an hour of aerobic exercise that is fun! Basically it is an exercise class to the rhythms of salsa, calypso, merengue, cumbia, etc and Debbie is such a good teacher too.

No special clothes are needed - just trainers and comfortable casual wear. It's great fun and we are so lucky to have a daytime class here in the village hall. Classes start at 1.45 pm and last an hour. Why not give it a try?

Maggie Duffy 860267



The Wherwell Website

The Wherwell website has been up and running for 12 years now, with seven thousand visitors in the last 12 months.

After a call to overhaul the current website from long-time webmaster Richard Rowles, a working group of interested villagers has been set up to develop a new website, both technically and creatively. In the interim, Andrew Flanagan has taken over the editorial role of the current site,

allowing Richard to focus on the development of the new site. One of the features of the new site will enable visitors to post stories with pictures. The new back-office system will enable any member from a team of editors to authorise the story. Another new feature will be a Diary system working in the same fashion.

In the interim period, until the redesigned website goes live, the Home Page on the original website is being changed to focus more on current events and future events. The centre column, headed 'Latest News' features events which have happened, using one photograph and a short report (ideally 100 words maximum). The right-hand column is a list of Diary Dates for the current month and following through to the remainder of the calendar year. We hope these changes will encourage more people to publicise events on the village website.

If you have any thoughts about features in or creation of the new website, or you would like to send details of your events for display on the old site, please send submissions to editor@wherwell.net

Andrew Flanagan

Wherwell History Group

Last month, I wrote about the Living Links community archives project and the exhibition we staged at the February Coffee Morning. On March 8th, Wherwell was one of many Hampshire societies who gathered at the Winchester Discovery Centre for a one-day conference. We mounted yet another display – this time within the confines of a 3-foot square panel!



List of Exhibits

Wherwell Skeleton 2008
Thumbnails of Talk Posters
Scrapbook 2010
Baverstock Irons

Archives - 1913 Estate Map
WHG Summary
Archives – Souvenirs
Archives – Anthologies

Archives – Oral History
Archives – Vic Pyke
Archives – Village Photos
Archives – Wherwell Car

Thank you to everyone who responded to our appeal for back-copies of the Wherwell Anthologies and the Parish Magazine. We now have two complete sets of Anthologies dating back to 1974 and a contiguous set of Parish Magazines as far back as March 2007; brilliant result.

Top prize (!) for donating the oldest magazine goes to Di Wild for “The Church in the Test Valley” – Parish News of Chilbolton with Wherwell, Longstock with Leckford and Stockbridge with Houghton – dated December 1977. Thirty-four years ago, C M Hubbard was resident at Chilbolton Rectory, the magazine cost 7d (old pence), had six pages of news & announcements, four pages of adverts and a colour nativity scene on the front cover.

We would like the archive to grow, so please continue searching for old copies of the Parish Magazine, newspaper cuttings, etc. Thank you.

Andrew Flanagan



Last Night, Proms in the Village – Save the Date

The Wherwell Proms 2010 - was a fantastic event! The people of Wherwell and Chilbolton certainly know how to enjoy an event, and our very own Last Night of the Proms was no exception. What's more, we ended up raising over two thousand pounds for local charities, including the Brecknock hospice.

How did it all begin? The previous year, I was visiting a friend in London, and we went to the 'Proms in the Park' and we were absolutely blown over. As we were leaving I suggested to my friend, Liz "Hey, we could do this in Wherwell – have a great time as well as raising money for some local good causes". Having her feet more firmly on the ground, Liz's response was a resounding: "Come off it, it will never happen." And from that moment it became a personal challenge. A group of us decided to have a go...

... and the Wherwell Proms was a huge success - due in no small part to the many people who helped with the hard slog of organizing an outside, multi-media event. So many people have asked me to pass on their thanks and their hopes that we will be organizing a similar extravaganza in 2011.....

Guess what! We are - on the 10th September 2011

Richard Rowles

Wherwell Primary School Spring Fete

Saturday 21st May 2011
11am – 1.30pm



Barbecue Drinks Tent

Traditional Teas and Cakes

Produce Pre-loved Toys

2nd Hand Books, CD's & DVD's

Bouncy Castle Kids Games

Prize Draw and Much More ...

Entertainment from the Children of the School

Free Car Parking

Cricket season is on its way!!!!



Anyone inspired by the Cricket world cup, or my bowling (unlikely I know) should seriously consider playing the odd game for Wherwell's Second XI team. We need a few people to bolster the team that should contain some players from the squad of the first team and the youngsters from our youth section. However we will need to make up a team with a few more players than that. If you used to play cricket and think competitive cricket is too much.... bear in mind that this is the first year of our 2nd XI and as such you will be playing in the 4th regional Division.

If that hasn't convinced you then maybe you like basking in the sunshine on a Saturday afternoon, and having a nice bit of cake for tea! Still is that's too much then why not play on Sunday in our Friendly matches.

Our next important date is the Lord Brecknock match on the 26th of June in aid of the WCC and the Countess of Brecknock Hospice. If you'd like a sponsorship form and would like to play please let me know. Last year we raised over £700. It would be great to match the £1700 we raised at the Sid Rowles match last August. These matches really are great fun and well worth being part of for such a great cause.

If you would like to get involved please contact me

*Richard Rowles 861101
Email: Richard@rowles.co.uk*



Chilbolton FC – Monthly Update March 2011

Results:

20.02.11	Chilbolton FC	v	Burbage & Easton FC
	(Opposition cancelled – 3 points awarded to Chilbolton)		
27.02.11	Enham Vision FC - 1	v	Chilbolton FC - 2
06.03.11	Wallop Wanderers Res - 0	v	Chilbolton FC - 2

This is my penultimate monthly report of the season as Chilbolton have now played their last game of the 2010/11 season. With 36 points from our 16 games and only two defeats we have a 9 point lead over the second-placed club. However, with 4 games still to play, Chute reserves can overtake us providing they win all their matches so we must wait to see how their results go.

Our first game of the month, which was to be our final home game of the season, against Burbage & Easton was cancelled as the opposition could not field a

side and we were awarded a 0-0 win. It was a shame not to get a last home game for our supporters and it would have been good to add to our goal tally.

Our next game, away to Enham Vision was a difficult game in soggy conditions and we needed to be at our best to get the win. It was striker Ollie Southworth who opened the scoring latching onto a neat through ball and lobbing the keeper neatly to give Chilbolton the lead midway through the first half. Despite some heavy pressure in the second half we continued to play our passing game and ten minutes from the end were rewarded with a corner that Luke Donovan headed home at the near post.

The final game of the season saw us away to Wallop Wanderers Reserves in a must-win game to have the best chance of winning the league. In an even encounter it was the passing football played by Chilbolton that proved too much for the home team and we ran out 0-2 winners. Two second half goals from Robbie Floyd, the second hooked beautifully into the top right corner of the net gave us the 3 points. It was an excellent team performance with some solid defence work from David Baker and Steve Curtis particularly, and fine midfield displays from Robbie Floyd and captain Kevin Hide.

Promotion to Division 2 remains our aim and we have done all we can to achieve that. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of the players for their unstinting efforts throughout the season. Thanks also to those supporters who turned out to cheer us on and to those who work in the background to support me and the players.

Big thanks also our sponsors: Hugo Fox for our playing kit; Steve and Diane and Logan for match footballs; Sam and Dave and the staff at The Abbots Mitre for after match refreshment and general encouragement; Jo at Chilbolton Stores for displaying our match reports

Continue to keep in touch with our progress at www.chilboltonfc.co.uk. I should be able to update you in next month's magazine on how our season finished.

Sam Horne (07969 055300), Manager

Bee Diary April 2011 (and gliding memories)



I enjoyed very much reading Liz Sparrow's article (great name for a glider pilot!) last month on what she got up to at the weekend, training for the Women's World Gliding Championships in Sweden this summer. I wish you all the very best, Liz, in your Standard Cirrus. Perhaps you could start a "gliding diary" for the parish mag; I for one would be an avid reader.

Long ago, before wife, children and bees came along; I used to go gliding myself. I did a basic course at Dunkeswell in Devon in a Blanik glider, then joined Thames Valley GC at Booker near High Wycombe. I went solo and enjoyed a couple of seasons, but never

progressed to cross country. It is a great sport; it was certainly very thrilling on several occasions. Glider pilots rarely tell of their “near misses”; there is an element of the “Right Stuff” about glider pilots (have you seen that great film?). From my memories every gliding club is a bit like Pancho Barnes’ “Happy Bar and Riding Club”, with wonderful characters who are always there. I bet if I walked into Booker or Lasham gliding clubs today, some of the same old faces would be there as they were back in the 1970s, not as young, but today some are coaches for Team GB.

For me, gliding progressed into sailing, I shared a 21ft Freedom with a friend and we spent several summers around the English Channel, the Channel Islands and the North Brittany coast. That progressed into cruising and racing a larger 33ft Sigma, which started to feel a bit like standing under the proverbial cold shower tearing up £20 notes.

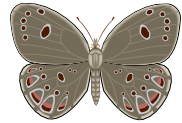
It occurs to me that whatever one does as a hobby, whether it is gliding, sailing or bee keeping, it is the complete break from the day job that is so valuable. When we were sailing, frazzled merchant bankers, after a hard week in the city would stagger onto their boats on a Friday night and start a cross channel JOG race which would last all weekend. They would get virtually no sleep, sitting on the rail to keep the boat upright. On Sunday evening they were physically exhausted, but mentally relaxed, to start their jobs again on Monday morning.

John Fry has been carrying out a scientific experiment. He was convinced that the narrow hive entrances he had made for all our hives were sufficiently narrow to prevent mice from entering the hives during the winter. I wasn’t convinced; I have read about how mice can squeeze through any opening they could fit their skulls through. So we have laboriously fitted metal mouse guards to every hive in October. John caught two mice and confined them inside a brood box, a glass sheet on top, with the narrow hive entrance open. The mice were still there three days later which proves, according to John, that we can dispense with the mouse guards. I am still slightly doubtful, being a kind hearted chap, he provided them with food and water during their incarceration. I believe the mice thought they were in seventh heaven!

Jolyon Pope

Chilbolton & Wherwell Wildlife

As I write it's a lovely sunny spring day! And the Brimstone butterflies are flying in my garden. The early butterflies emerging from hibernation are always a welcome sight; I've also seen a Peacock butterfly, and another villager reported seeing a Comma.



But the relatively small numbers of butterflies we see in March are as nothing compared with the moths. A few nights ago, on the first mild night for a while, I ran my light-trap in a Wherwell garden - adjacent to the Harewood Forest. In the morning, there were 1,400 moths inside the trap! Despite the numbers, there were in fact only sixteen species, and most were moths called "Quakers" (Small Quakers, Common Quakers, and Twin-spotted Quakers) whose caterpillars feed mainly on Oak. Unlike the early butterflies that all hibernate as adults, the Quakers spend the winter as a chrysalis (pupa) – and then they hatch out in the first mild weather. I've never previously caught so many moths in one trap, and it may be that the cold December killed off parasites and fungal infections that would otherwise have reduced the number of pupae. The cold winter certainly didn't diminish the moth numbers! Needless to say (as I always hasten to add when mentioning moth-traps) all the moths were released unharmed.

At Chilbolton, another spring-time pleasure is provided by the nesting Lapwing in the telescope area, and their wonderful "pee-wit" calls and their aerobatic dive-bombing display flight. Numbers there have dwindled in recent years, very likely as a result of disturbance from less well-controlled dogs. But now that most of the area is well-fenced, it will be interesting to see if our local Lapwing population returns to previous levels. Early indications are that it will, and quite a lot of birds seemed to be setting up territory by mid-March.

I also recently saw a large flock of over 400 Golden Plover near the telescope. These birds are winter visitors and won't be staying around; they nest on the upland moors of Northern England and Scotland and will be heading back there by the time you read this edition of the magazine. And spring will be properly here. So why not join me for a spring-time **Dawn Chorus walk** – meet at the top car-park

West Down, 6.00 am on Sunday 10th April

Glynne Evans (hantsbto@hotmail.com)