

Chilbolton and Wherwell Community Magazine

After a beautiful and bountiful autumn, winter is still not sure, weather-wise, that it wants to be with us just yet. However all the winter and Christmas goodies packed into the next two months are boldly on display in this month's magazine. With the end of the work on the church roof, The Wherwell Singers will be back in St Peter & Holy Cross on 10th December with their Christmas Concert. We would like to take this opportunity to wish our curate, Stuart Rason every success on his new appointment as Chaplain in the Royal Navy.

On a very sad note we would like to remember Bee Green and James Hellier who've recently died. They will be fondly remembered by people from both villages and way beyond.

Rosaleen Little

Thank you to Gail Budd, Tessa Youell, Rosaleen Little and Andrew Flanagan for producing this magazine and to Alan Crisp and helpers for 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

Flower Rota – December & January

St Mary the Less Chilbolton

Dec	Gail Bailey
16 Dec	Festival Flowers from 10.30. Details: Gail Bailey 860315
Jan	Jane Spence

St Peter and Holy Cross Wherwell

3, 10 Dec	Mrs Conte	7, 14 Jan	Mrs Whiteside
17 Dec	Festival flower group	21, 28 Jan	Mrs Molden

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Church Services December 2011					
	St Mary the Less Chilbolton	St Mary's Crawley	St Catherine's Littleton	St Stephen's Sparsholt	St Peter & Holy Cross Wherwell
Sunday 4th December <i>The Second Sunday of Advent</i>					
Holy Communion	8.00am				
Family Communion				10.00 am	
Morning Worship		10.00 am			
Posada Service			10.00 am		
Common Worship with HC					10.00 am
Evensong	6.00pm				
Tuesday 6th December					
Christingle				9.15am	
Wednesday 7th December					
Holy Communion			9.30 am		
Westholme			2.30 pm		
Sunday 11th December 2011 <i>The Third Sunday of Advent</i>					
Benefice Service – Stuart's Farewell service followed by lunch in the village hall	10.00 am				
Monday 12th December					
Mother & Toddler Service			10.30 am		
Wednesday 14th December					
Holy Communion			9.30am		
Thursday 15th December					
Wherwell School Carol Service					6.30 pm
Flowerdown HC			2.30 pm		
Sunday 18th December <i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>					
Holy Communion		8.00 am	8.00 am		
Morning Worship			10.00 am		
Carol Service	4.00 pm	6.00 pm	6.00 pm	6.00 pm	6.00pm
Monday 19th December					
Village Carols				6.00 pm	
Flowerdown Carol Sing			2.30 pm		
Wednesday 21st December					
Holy Communion	10.30 am		9.30 am		
Arqiva Carol Service TBC		12.30 pm			
Westholme Carol Service			2.30 pm		
Village Carols		6.30 pm			
Saturday 24th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>					
Crib Service	4.30 pm		4.00 pm	4.00 pm	3.00 pm
Posada		4.00pm			
Midnight Communion	11.15 pm		11.15 pm	11.30 pm	With CH
Sunday 25th December <i>Christmas Day</i>					
Holy Communion		8.00 am		8.30 am	
Family Communion			10.00 am		10.00 am
Family Service Non Communion	10.00 am	10.00 am		10.00 am	
Wednesday 28th December					
Holy Communion			9.30 am		
Meditation			7.00 pm		

Church Services January 2012					
	St Mary the Less Chilbolton	St Mary's Crawley	St Catherine's Littleton	St Stephen's Sparsholt	St Peter & Holy Cross Wherwell
Sunday 1st January The Epiphany					
Benefice Service St Stephens Patronal				10.00am	
Wednesday 4th January					
Holy Communion			9.30 am		
Westholme			2.30 pm		
Sunday 8th January <i>The Baptism of Christ</i>					
Holy Communion				8.00 am	
Family Communion		10.00 am	10.00 am		
Welcome Worship				10.00 am	
Morning Prayer	10.00 am				
Evening Communion					6.00 pm
Wednesday 11th January					
Holy Communion			9.30am		
Sunday 15th January Second Sunday of Epiphany					
Holy Communion		8.00 am	8.00 am		
Morning Worship			10.00 am		
Family Service					10.00 am
CW Holy Communion	10.00 am				
Matins				10.00 am	
Benefice Evensong			6.00 pm		
Wednesday 18th January					
Holy Communion			9.30 am		
BCP HC	10.30 am				
Thursday 19th January					
Flowerdown			2.30 pm		
Saturday 21st January					
House Communion			10.00 am		
Sunday 22nd January The 3rd Sunday of Epiphany					
Holy Communion					8.00 am
Family Service	10.00 am				
Family Communion			10.00 am	10.00 am	
4 th Sunday Worship		10.00 am			
Service of Peace & Healing			6.00 pm		
Wednesday 25th January					
Holy Communion			9.30 am		
Meditation			7.00 pm		
Sunday 29th January Presentation of Christ					
5 th Sunday Benefice Service Thanksgiving for all involved in the Health Service		10.00 am			

From the Church Records:

St Mary the Less Chilbolton

Funeral	10 November	Service in church for Beatrice Green
Baptism	13 November	Kirsty-Lauren Thompson
	13 November	Lexie-May Collis
	27 November	Georgina Rose Thomas

St Peter and Holy Cross Wherwell

Funerals	19 October	Irene Clay
	23 November	Service in church for James Hellier

Wherwell Singers

Christmas Concert The Nativity

*Saturday 10th December 2011 at 7:30pm,
St. Peter & Holy Cross Church, Wherwell*

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

Join us in the newly re-opened Wherwell Church as we tell the Nativity Story through music. As always, mulled wine and minced pies will be on sale.

Get your tickets early – last Christmas we almost sold out!

*More information available on our new website at
www.WherwellSingers.org.uk*

Christmas Letter from The Rectory

I have been asked to write a Christmas letter, yet what should I say? Basically I say go to church this Christmas! Christmas is one of the major Christian festivals where we look into the mystery of God and how it effects us. Let me explain: if we take Christ out of Christian all we are left with is Ian. Now Ian may be a nice chap but he doesn't have the answers to the four fundamental questions that every person who ever lived has tried to find answers to make sense of this world. Those questions are: Who am I? Why am I here? Why does suffering happen? And where am I going? The Christian answers have stood the test of time (2000 years and still going strong) and have broken through the many barriers of language, culture, vested interests etc., to span the entire world.

Who am I? You are a beloved child of God. Why am I here? To Love God and your Neighbour. As to why good people suffer? That has two main strands in its answer: one is that suffering arises and is made worse by people's selfishness as it manifests itself in greed for money/sex/power and leads to all sorts of violence. Secondly, other worldviews say that suffering is just part of life, it will improve you, it's the results of sins in a past life, this world is bad etc. Christianity rejects all these views. God made a world that was Good, Wholesome and Just, with perfect relationships (Genesis 1-3). Selfishness entered this good creation and marred it. Suffering is not part of God's creation (and so Christians should constantly work for Justice) and God has been working to rescue this creation, by Jesus' birth which we celebrate at this time of year. Many people only want God in the bad times. When life is good we are often self-confident and say we don't really need God, yet we still do!

Jesus' birth wasn't to be settled with a prosperous couple of the ruling class of the day. It was with a young couple rejected by family and friends at the bottom of society's ladder. Yet that child's birth is the hinge of history and has affected the world more than every other powerful scion of wealth and power ever born. In Christmas, we see and can find the answer to the problem of pain in the problem of beauty of the birth of the Son of God, Immanuel God with us. That is the Christian answer to suffering, that God is with us - then/now/in the future. Where are we going? Well God's plan is the rescue of his creation, this redemption and re-creation of his world where suffering and selfishness are gone and there is a restoration of perfect relationships, where people love God and their neighbours (all of them!).

This invitation to us all is in the Christmas story, so if you see Ian this Christmas buy him a drink, and if you want to see Christ, because he wants to meet you just as you are, then come to church this Christmas and receive the gift of God with you, Immanuel.

Rev'd Stuart Rason, The Rectory, Chilbolton.

- ABBOTS MITRE -

Whether you're looking for a special meal out, a drink with friends or family or a quick snack to relieve you from cooking – make the most of your local pub?

With warm and friendly customer service, our popular pub quiz on the second Tuesday of every month, and live jazz music on the 2nd and last Friday, we're the heart of the village.

WEEKLY OFFERS

Monday – Two courses for £10

Tuesday – Steak Night £7.95

Wednesday – Authentic Italian Pizza Night £6

Thursday – Pasta Night with Garlic Bread £6

Why not book your Christmas meal at your local village pub?

www.abbotsmitrechilbolton.co.uk | 01264 860348

CHILBOLTON CHRISTMAS Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

on December 17th at 10.30am

Our special guest will be

RAY BLAZDELL
AND HIS MUSIC

COME ALONG TO LISTEN TO THE MUSIC OR MAY BE BRING A SPECIAL REQUEST.

Have a coffee or tea with a mince pie, or perhaps you may be tempted to try our punch.

Books CD's, DVD's, cards etc. will be on sale.

The 100 club draw will be 11a.m.

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

Age Concern

New research by Age UK of over 1,200 over 65s revealed that nearly one in five pensioners had cut back on their heating over the winter months in order to make ends meet. Among poorer pensioners, one in five say they are going out less, to save money, and over a third buy cheaper or less food.

These results highlight the importance of Age UK's 'More Money in Your Pocket' campaign encouraging people in later life to claim the benefits to which they are entitled. As much as £5.4 billion in pensioner benefits goes unclaimed each year, because people assume they are not eligible, think the claiming process is too complicated and intrusive, or feel too proud to make a claim.

Pension credit is a very important benefit that is under-claimed. But around 88% of claims are actually successful. Around 2.7 million households across the UK receive it, and having some savings or another pension, doesn't necessarily rule you out. In fact, if you're aged 65 or over you might be entitled to extra money for having saved some money towards your retirement. And the first £10,000 of your savings will now be ignored when calculating if you can get Pension Credit.

Even if you only get a little extra each month, receiving Pension Credit may help you get money for other things, such as rent, council tax or towards the cost of keeping your house warm. If you have tried before but failed to get Pension Credit, it is worth applying again as your personal circumstances could have changed. There's also been a change to how entitlement is calculated which means even more people could now be eligible

There are a variety of benefits that apply to older people. You can find out more about them by looking on www.ageuk.org.uk or by picking up a More Money in Your Pocket booklet from Age UK Andover & District at Town Mill House (by Bridge Street). We are open for enquiries 9.30 to 12.30 Monday to Fridays, tel 01634 354425. We also have a pensions and benefits adviser and volunteers who make home visits to help with filling in forms such as attendance allowance.

White Lion Tea

I would like to repeat my appeal for people to come along and help hand out cake, pour tea at the monthly White Lion tea which I hope will restart in 2012 after a December break. It is really not hard work as no washing up or baking is involved! Just a friendly face and as little as a couple of *hours a year* for one tea if that is all that can be managed. Thanks.

Christina 0754 229 0081

Upper Clatford 2012 All Saints Winter Lectures

Charities Work in War Zones

We would like to invite you to three lectures by charities that are active, in very different ways, in conflict areas across the world:

16 January 2012 – Help For Heroes (www.helpforheroes.org.uk)

The growth, work and impact of Help for Heroes, since it was founded in October 2007 by Bryn and Emma Parry, needs no introduction. **Bryn Parry and David Richmond** (COO Tedworth House, Tidworth) will take us their work in providing support to injured members of the Armed Forces and their long term rehabilitation.

30 January 2012 - Afghan Connection (www.afghanconnection.org.uk)

In 1987, as a medical student, **Dr Sarah Fane** spent three months in the North West Frontier during the Russian war and returned in 2001 while Afghanistan was under the Taliban regime. She will take us through her experiences at these extraordinary times and how she set up her Newbury based Charity in 2002 which has supported numerous health projects and funded 37 schools, 20 of which are twinned to UK schools. Afghan Connection is also running a project with the MCC to take cricket to Afghanistan. Sarah will describe her work, the work of her charity and the pressures on the team in Afghanistan.

6 February 2012 – St John Eye Hospital - Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza (www.stjohnehospital.org)

Established in Jerusalem in 1882, the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is the only charitable provider of eye care in Gaza, the East Jerusalem and the West Bank, where rates of blindness are ten times higher than in the West. The hospital has opened satellite expert eye care centres in Gaza, Hebron and Anabta. **Dr Denise Magauran**, the former Chief Surgeon will describe the important work done at the epicentre of this highly volatile, dangerous and politically sensitive area.

The lectures start at 8pm in the Upper Clatford Village Hall. A minimum charge of £2.00 will be made and we would suggest a voluntary donation of £10.00, making a total of £12 per person per lecture, which will enable us to claim Gift Aid. All funds raised will be split equally between the three Charities and All Saints Church.

If you would like tickets, please contact Charles Crosthwaite Eyre (The Old Malthouse, Upper Clatford, Andover, Hampshire SP11 7QL. Email: charles.eyre@talktalk.net or tel 01264 35 25 30) to confirm how many tickets you want and for which talks. Cheques should be made out to 'All Saints PCC'.

Gentle Chair Aerobics Class - Fun, Friendship and Fitness

Every Wednesday 3pm-4pm at Chilbolton Village Hall

A gentle friendly class with fully insured and qualified instructor providing gentle exercises to improve movement and wellbeing, exercises can all be done seated and can all support 'falls' prevention for the older person.

All exercises are taken at the individual's pace and their needs will also be considered, and these can be discussed with the instructor, Anne over a cuppa at the end of class.

Come along for a taster session for free. Following weeks are £5.

Contact Anne the instructor on 07801 440041 or Sheila Evans on Chilbolton 860 697.

Phone Sheila if you would like a copy of Hampshire County Council's leaflet, '**Better balance for life**', giving 9 exercises to improve flexibility and balance.

The Village Quiz 28 October - A Big Thank You

This is just a note to say how grateful we are, and how impressed we were, with the organisation of the quiz which raised £744 for the Boaz Project. Please relay our thanks to all concerned.

As you know Boaz is a locally-run Christian charity providing horticulture for adults with learning disabilities. Its purpose is to give dignity and confidence in a happy, safe and supporting environment enabling greater independence, social inclusion and employability.

Of course we do a lot more than grow plants and vegetables. We have a very busy kitchen producing jams, chutneys, cakes and biscuits; a craft room for a wide range of activities; a small woodwork department and sheep, chickens, donkeys and rabbits to care for.

We have recently outgrown our current meeting/multi-purpose room, and the money the quiz raised will be put towards building another larger room in our barn. This in turn will free up more space for our growing woodwork department and we are all very excited about these developments. We are expecting work to start in January. You will appreciate then how delighted we are with this wonderful fundraising event.

The people from Boaz who attended the quiz, myself included, had a really enjoyable evening, so once again congratulations and thanks to all involved.

Mike Whalley (Manager)

Chilbolton Village Hall

The first anniversary of our 100's Club has just passed and I would like to thank everyone for renewing their subscription, and in some cases for increasing their membership by the purchase of additional tickets. The money raised for the maintenance of the hall is now quite significant and something we could not manage without, so thank you all very much. Villagers can join at any time, simply by contacting me on 861334, and I will do the rest!

Our 2011/12 film season started on 7 October with a showing of 'West Side Story' that had been digitally re-mastered, and I have to say that despite being some 50 years old, the story-line stood up well with many modern parallels that still exist in today's society. In November the film was 'Brighton Rock' which was a remake of the 1947 original and based on a Graham Greene book. Both films were excellent, and those villagers who didn't make it to the showings missed a treat. Our December film is the perennial favourite 'Jane Eyre'.

The Committee is working hard to ensure an exciting and entertaining programme for next year and would welcome any ideas and suggestions.

But it's now approaching the end of 2011, so I take this opportunity to wish all readers a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

John Temple
Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee

Curate to Chaplain RN by Rev'd Stuart Rason

My curacy post here is coming to an end in 2012, so I have been exploring where God wants me to serve next, and the answer is to be a Chaplain in the Royal Navy. I will be leaving in January to start my training initially at Devonport and Dartmouth. When I was ordained, Bishop Trevor said that the Benefice will help shape you into the priest that you will become, so I would like to thank all of you for being part of my formational growth as a priest, and for the welcome and opportunity you have all extended which has allowed me to become part of this community. It has been an enriching experience living and ministering here, and one for which I am grateful.

There will be a service in Chilbolton on 11 December at 10am, where I will have an opportunity to say goodbye more fully, or over one of the Christmas services.

Thank you and God Bless.

Rev'd Stuart Rason

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

We are edging closer to getting all the documentation complete with Enterprise Inn so that work on the play area can start some time soon. It is being funded by 106 monies, a grant from TVBC, and by a modest investment from the Parish. If anyone out there wants to fund any of the units we are putting in to commemorate an event in their lives, please let me know.

Staying with the young, the Community Police Officer has taken steps to make parents aware of the dangers posed by children riding unlit bikes on the roads these dark evenings and, for the moment, the problem has eased. We are giving some thought to the erection of flashing speeding signs for Village Street but as yet no decision has been reached.

A very positive meeting was held with representatives from Hampshire County Council in respect of the proposal for the Parish to acquire West Down. A heads of agreement is being prepared by HCC and when it has been discussed and amended, a public meeting will be held in the village to decide if we wish this matter to proceed. With a view to ensuring that there is a closer relationship between the two villages, I met Jane Andrews, the Chair of Wherwell Parish Council, recently and we discussed matters of mutual interest and agreed to meet on a regular basis. We share common problems and together we can make improvements.

Many of you will have seen details of the new TVBC Core Strategy Development Plan either in the Advertiser or on the TVBCs web site. Earlier this year we worked long and hard and expressed in meetings and in correspondence with TVBC where we thought development might be allowed and which areas should be kept free from further building. All our suggestions have been ignored in spite of the planning officers and councillor Hatley stating that the plan, 'recognises and reflects the priorities identified by residents.' Not as we see it! We have made known our views to TVBC and will fight for them to be taken into account. In 2008 TVBC had their development plans rejected by central government as they had not carried out proper consultation with local people, history is repeating itself.

For the Queen's Jubilee celebrations next year we have decided not to have a bonfire but to plant a grove of trees somewhere on the Memorial Playing Fields and perhaps to replace the posts around Stocks Green with new posts with maybe a crown carved on them. We have also made progress with the proposal to seed part of the playing fields with wild flowers and steps will be taken over the winter to prepare the ground as another Jubilee project.

Alan Crisp

WHERWELL PARISH COUNCIL

At the November meeting the Parish Council expressed its sadness at the passing of Bea Green and James Hellier. They were both well known, respected residents of the village. James attended most of our meetings and gave us a great deal of support. They will both be missed and we offer our sympathy to their families.

Unfortunately the report on the September PC meeting did not make the November magazine so this article summarises the September and November meetings.

We have been told by HCC that what seems like a never ending delay, regarding the Chant Close Footpath, is due to a dispute over the legal costs of acquiring two small parcels of land from Punch Taverns and Testway Housing. Hopefully it might soon be resolved.

We continue to receive complaints from Testway Housing's tenants that their maintenance requests are often ignored. Currently Testway claim that they are not responsible for repairing the Chant Close steps' lights and the potholes at the entrance to Beech Grove. As both are health and safety issues we have asked that they get on with the repairs without waiting for the liability issues to be sorted out. Testway has still not resolved the service charge dispute with the residents of Mill Court although they admit that they have been overcharged ever since the properties were first occupied. Cllr Neal is also chasing up these problems.

We now have the results of the speed audit that was recently carried out between Primrose Cottage and Winchester Corner, where there is a 30mph speed limit. It was no surprise to find out that on weekdays, between 8 and 9am, the average speed was 41mph. This is clearly unacceptable as children have to walk to school along this stretch of road. Ideally some sort of traffic calming would be put in this area but it would cost in the region of £50K. As no serious accident has yet occurred, there is no funding available. However, our beat policeman PC Jewell, who attended the November PC meeting, now has a copy of the report and he has said that he will be regularly monitoring, with his new radar gun, the speed of traffic in this area and along Fullerton Road. You have been warned! Inconsiderate parking at the junction of Church Street and the High Street and in the vicinity of High Street, Fullerton Road and Mill Lane is still taking place. Residents are to be reminded by PC Jewell to be more responsible where they park and consider the safety of other road users.

Cutbacks to the bus services between Andover, Stockbridge and Winchester have adversely affected the transport arrangements for children attending various schools and colleges. Cllr Gibson is investigating the situation.

A donation of £25 has again been made to Test Valley School to fund a prize, at the Student Annual Awards Evening.

The installation of kerbs along parts of Fullerton Road is to be included in the highways maintenance programme. Concerns were raised that the semi-permanent 'temporary repairs' to the bridge at Winchester Corner are an eyesore in the conservation area. HCC are to be asked to advise what they propose to do to prevent

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repeated damage to the bridge. Our requests for 'Road not suitable for HGVs' signs seem to fall on deaf ears. We are arranging to have the road signs throughout the parish cleared of vegetation and cleaned.

Planning applications have been approved for Flat 1 Fullerton Manor, Lime Trees Fullerton Road, Tadley Cottage Fullerton Road, 30 High Street, 6 Chant Close and 4 Railway Cottages Fullerton.

The PC objected to plans for an extension to 2 Kingsmill Cottages and Industrial Units at Dublin Farm but supported plans for an agricultural building at Westover Farm. An amended application was received for Carpenter's Barn Mill House and the revisions were supported. Tree applications have been made for 15 High Street and Mill House and were supported. A further tree application, at Chapel Cottage Fullerton Road, is pending a report by the tree warden. A retrospective application is being submitted for the work at the quarry car park, adjacent to 30 High Street.

Sites within the parish are to be identified for the planting of various spring bulbs to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year. If you have any suggestions as to where they could be planted do contact me. We are exploring the possibility of joining in with the nationwide plan to light beacons on 4 June to celebrate the Jubilee.

A grant of £100 has been given to Joyrides to assist the scheme that provides transport for a weekly shopping trip to Andover for local residents.

The broken sign regarding the bridleway by the Long Bridge is to be replaced and some fencing installed there to ensure that the access for horses is not obstructed by parked cars. Volunteers have been asked to assist the PC to clear the Testway footpath between Beech Grove and New Barn Lane. The condition of local footpaths needs to be regularly monitored please contact me or Cllr Lizzie Broadbent tel: 860434 if you would be prepared to help.

The PC is concerned that the acting committee of the Home Guard Club closed the club without prior notification to the members and they have since failed to consult at all with the members regarding their future proposals for the club premises and site.

The PC warmly congratulated the Wherwell Cricket team for its success in winning its league this year. The team will be attending a presentation at the Rose Bowl to receive their award. More help is required with running all the cricket teams-please contact Richard Rowles tel: 861101.

Father Christmas is desperate to recruit more elves to help with distributing presents at the Andover Garden Centre Grotto. Please volunteer for a session if you can, it really is great fun to hear what the children want for Christmas. The Playing Field's Committee rely on the money raised from running the grotto, to continue to maintain and improve the facilities which are enjoyed by local people and especially by children. Currently they want to raise about £50K to upgrade the tennis courts. Please contact me or Sean Hutton tel: 860443 if you can help.

Next PC meeting Tuesday 10th January at 7.00pm in the Colonel Jenkins' Hall.

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

Chilbolton WI

As usual, Chilbolton WI met in the Village Hall on the third Tuesday of the month. In October, Katy England, an archaeologist, talked about Stone Age food, cooking and art. Earliest examples of the latter were of faces engraved on limestone tablets which, having been done 30,000 years ago, looked remarkably contemporary.

The first cave paintings, sculpture and engravings were discovered in the limestone valleys of France, where our ancestors lived in rocky shelters with skin or wattle protection from the wind, the weather during the Ice Age being somewhat bracing. Illumination was provided by birch bark torches or lamps, fuelled by animal oil. Paint brushes were of badger or horse hair, and ochre provided colour – red, yellow and purple – for the paintings. For hunter-gatherers, herds of mammoth and reindeer on the plains of Europe were their source of meat. This was supplemented by berries and nuts.

The Ice Age drew to a close about 10,000 years ago and a couple of thousand years later the climate in Britain became sufficiently clement to attract its first immigrants. They ate fish, eels, wild cow, deer and boar. They developed nets, hooks and harpoons to catch fish from coracles and canoes, and amazingly sophisticated arrows for hunting. Larger animals were cooked in hot stone pits and the smaller ones on stones over a fire. Roasted hazelnuts were a staple food, and they weren't so daft as they managed to make acorns palatable by grinding, soaking and roasting them.

Our Christmas festivities take the form of lunch in a local pub, hopefully minus acorns. The first meeting of the New Year, on Tuesday 17 January, will feature Rebecca Bissonet talking about her time as an apprentice at the Royal School of Needlework and her subsequent career. Visitors are very welcome at 8pm - just bring your £3.

Sally Griffiths

Wanted

Does anyone have or know someone who has a medium to large fruit press?

After a discussion amongst a number of people in the village regarding the large amount of surplus apples, we wondered whether anyone has, or knows someone who has a fruit/cider press.

Please contact George.Marits@btinternet.com

Chilbolton Horticultural Society: October Meeting.

Who knew that Monet's name was *Oscar* Claude, and that his early work was signed 'O.Monet'? (That could have been a question in the Village Quiz, sorry!) This was just one of a huge number of interesting facts we discovered when Jennifer Carter led us on a journey through Monet's life, art and garden at our meeting in October.

Monet claimed to have only two skills, 'painting and gardening', but he was too modest. Jennifer revealed him to be a generous and kind-hearted man, taking a homeless friend and her six children into his home to join him, his wife and their two sons.

When they moved into an old cider-mill at Giverny, north of Paris, he set about renovating the house and garden, later buying the land across the road to develop his renowned water gardens, which were accessed via a tunnel under the busy road outside. He even paid for this road to be surfaced in tarmac as the dust was damaging his plants. There he would spend hours, not always painting, but watching the changes in light on the water.

The garden has been painstakingly restored to what the experts can only deduce from sketches and notes was his design, for the gardens fell into disrepair after his death and were restored only very recently. Many thousands of annuals are planted each year, forming swathes of colour in the long borders, backed by perennials such as Iris, Paeony and the world-renowned, scarlet opium poppy. The stone-chips for all the paths is renewed annually to ensure the colour remains uniform.

Tourists now flock to admire and marvel at the gardens, but from Jennifer's pictures you would never guess this: such is her skill, they give the very image of peace and tranquillity which Monet so desired.

Jennifer's skills extend to quilting, and she showed us delicate quilts she has made, inspired by the gardens at Giverny. An excellent talk, enjoyed by a large audience: it was great to see so many visitors.

Sue Batchelor

Countess of Brecknock Hospice Donation

On 24 October a further donation of £200 was made to the hospice on behalf of the Chilbolton and Wherwell Care Group. Once again thank you to the drivers for your time and to our 'customers' for their generosity.

Mike Davis

Wherwell History Group

By the time you read this, the **Wherwell Church Time Capsule** will have been buried in the churchyard. The contents were on display last month at the Wherwell Coffee Morning, the History Group meeting and the Church 'Topping Out' event. A list of contents can be viewed on the Wherwell website.

The time capsule is a metal clad box measuring 12 inches by 9 inches by 6 inches deep. It has been professionally sealed, and is air-tight, water-tight and anything-else-tight! Residing deep underground should maintain a fairly constant temperature and help preserve the contents.

The bulk of the contents are paper-based. Together with some local history books, local magazines, Electoral Roll, the Andover Advertiser and our 2012 Calendar, there are over fifty pamphlets depicting prices of goods, services and house sales, timetables, local walks, eating out, Digital TV Switchover and National Gardens Scheme; over thirty items featuring local groups and local events, photographs of flora and fauna and village landmarks, and over fifty profiles of Wherwell families and villagers. We hope the capsule will lie undisturbed into the 22nd century and give a fascinating insight into our village in the early 21st century.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who responded to our email appeal and/or has taken part in an interview and loaned family photographs. It has been a delight to talk to people about the village, especially those who have lived here for fifty years or more. There is a limit to how much can be written on a single A5 sheet of paper! We hope that next year, we can build on the success of this project by conducting some in-depth Oral Interviews and include residents of Chilbolton also.

Finally a reminder about our 'Bygone Times' 2012 Calendar



Black & white photographs of both villages from the Victorian, Edwardian and pre-WWII periods.

Opens up to A3-portrait size, with A4 photograph on the top half and monthly calendar on the bottom half, allowing plenty of space for appointments.

Visit the Wherwell website to see full-size images of all twelve photos.

The Calendar retails at £5.99 and is on sale at Waterstones (Andover), White Lion Inn, Wherwell School, Chilbolton shop and Lane End Kitchenware (Stockbridge).

Andrew Flanagan

Ship shape and Bristol fashion

Sometimes I have to laugh at God's sense of humour. No I'm not talking about a duck-billed platypus, but the best sort of humour shared with a good friend as you look back and see a gentle irony and their smiling face. Let me explain.

Six years ago when Stuart first started exploring a vocation to the priesthood, to be honest I didn't really have any sense of calling. I wondered if he should wait (maybe thirty years when we had a pension and he could then explore this sense of vocation). But Stuart said he felt the questions had to be asked now and everyone he spoke to validated his calling. Every door opened. Before long we were moving to Bristol for Stuart to begin his two-year training. As we sold our business and left our home in Yateley, he wrote an article entitled 'Ship shape and Bristol fashion' for the parish magazine, not knowing where it would lead. During his training we both had a sense that Stuart would be called to work with younger people, maybe in the Army?

Again, in typical Stuart style, he was one of the first would-be curates in college to find a position. Quite unusually he was given an open choice of four training posts and he chose the Down's Benefice, met with Juliet the same day and I think both instantly agreed that this would be the right placement – and it has been! A year later we moved to Chilbolton and Stuart almost immediately met Ben and Cynthia Bezance and their family and began his ministry here. He had the opportunity and joy to come alongside so many special people here who will always be loved by him. He loved to hear Patrick quote poetry; his memories of time spent with the school children at both Wherwell and Sparsholt will be more than ever treasured; he's been blessed with the privilege of marrying some of you and baptising adults and children alike. He has stood by you in some of your darkest hours and loved and cared for you. A few weeks ago Josh was confirmed in Chilbolton Church where both our children have joined a wonderful choir which has been so much part of our journey here and our way of life.

When Stuart started thinking about what might be next for him (after checking he wasn't allowed to stay) he decided to ask for an Army placement. Quite unexpectedly he was contacted, out of the blue, by the Navy. He decided that as he was going to try the army placement, why not try a naval placement as well. The discernment process is a strange one where you try to sense God's calling, you look for God's peace, you acknowledge your fears and you are brave enough to wonder what might be. Whilst Stuart was away with the Navy, we had a peaceful week and Stuart came back and said 'I think this might be it'. When he went to the army he noticed small but significant things that didn't feel right, and even though he made a good friend in one of the Army Chaplains he started to explore whether the Navy was God's calling. The enormity of the prospect wasn't lost on me, and I went along to meet some Chaplains and their wives and looked at the ministry they have. It seemed to be a fit for us but as I couldn't just go with the flow, I asked God for confirmation (on a much bigger scale!)

(Continued on page 19 ...)

Whilst we were in Portsmouth visiting good friends, we were eating on the waterfront and the most extraordinary thing happened. We were looking out to sea and HMS Illustrious came in (in the days when we had aircraft carriers!) We all rushed to the side to see her. I knew, because I'd been doing my research, that she'd only been in the Atlantic completing some training, so there was no crowd or hype, but as I stood there I had the most overwhelming sense of joy. I was immediately reminded of the part in the Christmas story when Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth and Elizabeth says, 'When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy.' I wasn't pregnant! However my spirit within me leapt for joy when I saw the ship come in. Stuart applied to the Navy and in typical Stuart style all the doors opened. He was accepted and offered a commission in the Royal Navy.

Stuart starts with the Navy in January. He'll go to Britannia Royal Naval College for his officer training. I and the boys are planning to stay here in Chilbolton, certainly through Stuart's initial training – and then, who knows? We are able to stay in the Rectory as his post here will not be filled immediately.

I know that there will be challenges ahead, but I am comforted by such a clear sense of calling, by God's love and by so many dear friends here. I may need to call on you for help during those times when Stuart is away, and thank you to everyone who has already offered support and friendship to us. Who would have thought it? Six years ago this certainly wasn't in my head but here we are at another crossroads, and I find the same title being used for an article in a Parish Magazine as we find ourselves once again Ship shape and Bristol fashioned!

Ros Rason

Georgian Glassmakers

Launch their range of 18th Century Georgian wine glasses in Lead Crystal

Glassmakers Mark Taylor and David Hill produce beautiful hand-crafted reproductions of Georgian wine glasses in their studio at Project Workshops near Andover, Hampshire.

Their latest range is made in Lead Crystal and includes some of the most popular and sought-after designs of the Georgian period.

www.georgianglassmakers.co.uk

Well known for their high quality reproductions of Roman and ancient glass, their Georgian range extends their reputation for producing historically accurate glasses using traditional hand-working techniques.

Single or sets of glasses can be made to order
Range includes air twists, opaque twists and balusters

For further information, please visit our website and give us a call.

Georgian Glassmakers
Project Workshops, Unit 16, Lains Farm, Quarley
Andover, Hampshire SP11 8PX Tel - 01264 889688





DIARY DATES DECEMBER - FEBRUARY



December

2 nd	Film: Jane Eyre	CVH	6.45 pm
3 rd	Coffee Morning	WVH	10.30 am
3 rd	Talk by Major Parker	WVH	7.30 pm
6 th	Chilbolton Parish Council	CVH	8.00 pm
6 th	Hanger Doors Are Open	Wherwell Pavillion	8.00 pm
9 th	History Group Open Evening	WVH	8.00 pm
9 th	Pub Live Jazz Night	Abbots Mitre	8.00 pm
10 th	Wherwell Singers	Wherwell Church	7.30 pm
12 th	Midday Mums	WVH	10.30 am
13 th	Pub Quiz	Abbots Mitre	7.45 pm
16 th	Christmas Hamper Raffle	Wherwell School	
17 th	Christmas Coffee Morning	CVH	10.30 am
18 th	West Down Task Day	Top Car Park	10.00 am

January

3 rd	Chilbolton Parish Council	CVH	8.00 pm
7 th	Coffee Morning	WVH	10.30 am
9 th	Red Garter		
10 th	Wherwell Parish Council	WVH	7.00 pm
10 th	Pub Quiz	Abbots Mitre	7.45 pm
14 th	Wherwell Annual Quiz	WVH	7.30 pm
16 th	Midday Mums	WVH	10.30 am
16 th	Help 4 Heroes lecture	Upper Clatford VH	8.00 pm
17 th	WI meeting	CVH	8.00 pm
20 th	History Group Talk	WVH	8.00 pm
21 st	Coffee Morning	CVH	10.30 am
24 th	Horticultural Society Talk	CVH	7.45 pm
27 th	'Eastern Feast'	CVH	
29 th	West Down Task Day	Top Car Park	10.00 am
30 th	Afghan Connection Lecture	Upper Clatford VH	8.00 pm

February

4 th	Coffee Morning	WVH	10.30 am
6 th	St John Eye Hospital Lecture	Upper Clatford VH	8.00 pm
7 th	Chilbolton Parish Council	CVH	8.00 pm

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA

Pantomimes and Family Christmas Shows: For ticket prices, times of performances and booking details please see websites or phone the theatres.

24/11/11 to 07/01/12: **The Wind in the Willows** – The Watermill, near Newbury. Tel (01635) 46044 www.watermill.org.uk

03/12/11: **The Snow Queen** – Presented by Ballet UK at The Lights, Andover. Tel (01264) 368368 www.thelights.org.uk

07/12/11 to 07/01/12: **Jack and the Beanstalk** - Salisbury Playhouse. Tel (01722) 320333 www.salisburyplayhouse.com

07/12/11 to 02/01/12: **Cinderella** - Theatre Royal, Winchester. Tel (01962) 840440 www.theatre-royal-winchester.co.uk

08/12/11 to 02/01/12: **Peter Pan** – The Anvil, Basingstoke. Tel (01256) 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

09/12/11 to 31/12/11: **Beauty and the Beast** – The Haymarket, Basingstoke. Tel (01256) 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

09/12/11 to 14/01/12: **Peter Pan** – The Mayflower, Southampton. Tel (02380) 711811 www.mayflower.org.uk

13/01/12 to 28/01/12: **Sleeping Beauty** - Plaza Theatre, Romsey. Tel (01794) 512987 www.plazatheatre.co.uk

Music:

16/12/11: **Romsey Singers with Decadent Brass**. A Feast of Christmas Music at 7.30pm at Romsey Abbey. Tel (01794) 512987

www.romsey.net.org.uk/musicromsey.htm

20/12/11: **Carols by Candlelight with the Locrian Ensemble** at The Lights, Andover at 7.45pm. Tickets £18-£19. Contact details as above.

Other events:

01/01/12: **New Year's Day Tour**. Tour of Hillier Gardens, near Romsey at 2 pm. Gardens open 10am to 5pm. Free with normal admission. Book in person on the day. 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 – 11.45am. The Andover market is held outside the Guildhall every Friday, 7.30am – 1pm

Farmers' Market Dates:

04 Dec 2011 – Romsey

08 Jan 2012 – Winchester

11 Dec 2011 – Winchester

Date not available yet – Andover

18 Dec 2011 – Andover

29 Jan 2012 – Winchester

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



“IT’S ALL GOING TERRIBLY WRONG !”

AN IRREVERENT LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES AT ROYAL &
NATIONAL EVENTS

A TALK TO BE GIVEN BY
MAJOR SIR MICHAEL PARKER KCVO CBE

(A RESIDENT OF WHERWELL)
IN THE COLONEL JENKINS’ MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 2011

AT 7.30 P.M. FOR 8.00 P.M.

TICKETS £8

(TO INCLUDE A GLASS OF WINE)

RESERVATIONS WITH

ANNA LIPA 860879 / ANNA@STEFANLIPA.CO.UK

IN AID OF WHERWELL CHURCH RESTORATION FUND



Chilbolton WI meeting 17 January 2012

**‘Life as an Apprentice at the Royal School of Needlework and
beyond’**

Speaker: Rebecca Bissonet

Rebecca will share with us her experiences as a skilled designer and Textile Conservator. She has worked at the V&A, the Museum of London and Hardwick Hall in this country and at the Museum of Islamic Art in Qatar.

The business meeting starts promptly at 7.30pm.

Talk starts at 8.00pm

Visitors are welcome. £3.00.

Produce and Craft Stall

Raffle

Refreshments

WHERWELL SCHOOL PTA - NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

So we've dispensed sweets to small children in scary costumes, and we've been dazzled by fireworks. You know what that means – Santa Claus is coming to town! Before you dive for cover, please read our newsletter to find out what's in store for the Christmas term and beyond!

At our Annual General Meeting on 3rd October we said goodbye to several long standing members of the Committee; Debra Armstrong, Emma Way and Clare Gibson. All were thanked for their outstanding fundraising achievements and commitment to promoting the school. The newly elected Committee is:

Joint Chairs - Tom Meldrum and Claudia Salazar-Lewis

Treasurer - Sandie Eley

Secretary - Jo Hancocks

Members - Leanne Baldwin, Gaynor Childs, Debbi Cook, Julie Dinkele, Edel Dratwa, Denise Hall, Julia Simmonds, Louisa Wallington, Sue Watt and Emma Woolven.

Dates for your diary:

Christmas Hamper Raffle – Friday 16 December Preparations are under way for our very popular Hamper Raffle. Contributions of foods, wines and festive gifts can be left in the School Office.

Looking ahead to 2012, we have lots of events planned, including the return of the hugely popular Camping Night! (*Dates are subject to alteration*)

'Bags 2 School' Textile Recycling	9 th January
Quiz and Curry Evening	10 th February
Fun Run	29 th April
Spring Fete	19 th May
Camping Night	23 rd June
Summer Barbecue	13 th July

Special Thanks Debra, Emma and Clare would like to send an ENORMOUS 'THANK YOU' to all the children for the wonderful cards they made to commemorate their time with the PTA. In Clare's words they were 'absolutely beautiful - real works of art'.

Supporters Club Please note that our Supporters Club is no longer in operation and subscriptions need not be renewed.



Autumn at Pre-school

The children have been having fun at Pre-school and enjoying the Autumn season. They have been making leaf prints, hand prints to make a tree, and finding acorns in the garden. We will soon be making bird feeders for our Sensory Garden and talking about the changes winter brings.

We held a very successful Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) afternoon here at Pre-school and lots of parents attended. The aim of the afternoon was to help parents of Pre-school children understand the EYFS and how the children learn while in our care. The parents all found this interesting and the children had a lovely time playing.

We are looking forward to the run-up to Christmas, and busy planning our Christmas show. With Christmas in mind the children will shortly be painting canvasses to raise funds for the Pre-school.

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 Sam for more information or to arrange a visit. Parents are already arranging visits for children aiming to start in the next academic year. Call 07732 095814 or 07919 130777 or email willrj@hotmail.co.uk
www.chilboltonpreschool.com

CHILBOLTON Coffee Morning

**To be held in the Village Hall
on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10.30am to 12 noon.**

Everyone welcome

Come for a chat and to meet other villagers.

Have a coffee or tea with biscuits for just £1.

This also includes a raffle ticket.

**Books CD's, DVD's, cards etc. will be on sale.
The 100 club draw usually takes place at 11a.m.**

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



I COOK - YOU EAT

Too busy to cook?

Family descending on you at the weekend?

Want to arrange a party but worried about catering?

I create a range of homemade food which can be delivered fresh or frozen to your door.

I use top quality ingredients which are sourced from local producers and suppliers in North West Hampshire and, when possible, from my own garden.

All numbers or types of events can be catered for, whether for a small group of family or friends, lunch/dinner parties or larger functions.

So for **REAL** homemade food that I cook and you eat...

www.icookyoueat.co.uk

Peter Lane - 01264 771 701 / peter@icookyoueat.co.uk

PROJECT



WORKSHOPS



Carol Singers

Project Workshops Christmas Sale

10th & 11th December 2011

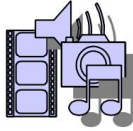
Enjoy relaxed Christmas shopping. Choose from a range of handmade Glass, Furniture, Sculpture, Jewellery, Paintings, Metalwork and Pottery all made by the Resident Artists and Craftsmen. Free Entry.

We look forward to greeting you with a Mince Pie and a glass of wine. Please note credit card purchases are not supported.

Project Workshops, Lains Farms, Quarley, Andover, SP11 8PX Tel: 01264 889889

www.project-workshop.co.uk

Come to the Movies!!!



CHILBOLTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Proudly Present

Jane Eyre (PG)

Starring Judi Dench, Mia Wasikowska and Michael Fassbender

Amid the brooding splendour of the Derbyshire countryside and magnificence of Haddon Hall, Charlotte Brönte's classic tale of passion, jealousy, madness and love is retold.

In Chilbolton Village Hall
on

Friday, 2nd December, 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 mince pies

There will also be an Christmas raffle!

Wine 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

Andover Choral Society's 40th Anniversary - Christmas Concert

Handel's MESSIAH

The Anton Sinfonia conducted by Peter Ford

St Mary's Parish Church Andover SP10 1DP

Saturday 10th December 7:30 p.m.

Ticket £12/£10 concessions,

from Waterstone's Bookstore, choir members or at the door.

Enquiries 01264 354305

Run Rowlesey Run

..... From the edge of Obesity to the realm of the Marathon Runner

Many of you should know me by now as slightly more than podgy Richard Rowles, but you may not know that I am 36 years old and weigh 20 stone. Yes I know! Now you've taken a sharp intake of breath, please read on.

Some say I'm an interfering 'ole soul'. I love getting my (far too podgy) fingers into many pies (metaphorically, and sadly, literally). Whether it's organising local events such as the Wherwell Last Night of the Proms, Chairman and Captain for the Wherwell Cricket Club, coaching kids' cricket, doing my bit for charity, or running for local office (tragically the only thing I have 'run' for in latter years), I can't help myself but get stuck in.

However, a number of things have forced me to examine my lifestyle and my priorities. I need to get fit and it's now a matter of urgency. My goal is to improve my health and get my weight down to 15 stone by the end of 2012.

How to combine my enthusiasm for getting fit with helping a worthy cause . . .

I've thought long and hard. I've considered the wonder of mankind; the feats of his achievement in times of adversity; the sheer endeavour of man when the chips are down. Also I'm quite a fan of Don Quixote! *So now it's time to dream the impossible dream, and take up the challenge of a lifetime.*

So, September next year, our Olympic year, for charity, I am going to run a FULL marathon. Not only will I have to get fit in order to get down to lace my trainers up, but I will hopefully become a better role model, not just for the kids I coach at cricket, but also quite possibly inspiration to YOU! 2012 is Olympic year, so come and join Team Rowles.

I started training seven weeks ago at 20 stone and I've lost 8lbs so I've already made a flying start. Even so, some might say it can't be done, it's sheer madness, but I think they have forgotten the things we can achieve if we put our minds to task. With your help I hope I can prove them wrong!

The two local charities near Wherwell I'm raising money for are:

The Countess of Brecknock Hospice is a valuable sanctuary providing palliative care for those suffering from terminal illness. It's a Godsend in times of desperation.

Age UK Andover provide much needed support for the elderly in our communities.

Two worthy causes. How can YOU help? Well, there are four such ways:

1. Sponsor me directly via the website which is coming soon.
2. Join 'Team Rowles' - the people machine who are resolute on helping me reach my goals. We need you, your enthusiasm and your skills to help get this show on the road (and the treadmill and finally the running track).
3. Join in the run on the day for a short 5km distance, get yourself a 'Run Rowlesey Run' t-shirt and a sponsor form and add to the fundraising.
4. Find a business sponsor - we are looking for eight business sponsors each of whom will be the focus of a monthly press release, website sponsorship, and t-shirt sponsorship. Hopefully they can donate a good pair of running shoes or one of the many other things I need to complete my mission!

Thanks for your time. I hope you can help, see you soon!

Rich

richard@rowles.co.uk tel:01264 861101

WHERWELL HISTORY GROUP



AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY HEATHER SHEELEY



WOMEN IN WAR

AT
COLONEL JENKINS'
MEMORIAL HALL
WHERWELL SP11 7JJ

**FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY
AT 8.00PM**

ALL WELCOME ADMISSION £3.00
TEA/COFFEE AND BISCUITS INCLUDED

MIDDAY MUMS

This is a coffee morning especially for Mums, carers and children to get together for fun and chat, etc. It is held at the Wherwell Village Hall from 10.30 to 12 noon. The dates for December and January are:

Monday 12th December (*a week earlier than usual*) and
Monday 16th January.

Susan Ansell 860775



Chilbolton Players present



Treasure Island - The Panto

By The Phoenix Writers Group



17th & 18th February 2012, 7:00 for 7:30pm
and Matinee 18th February, 2:00 for 2:30pm

Bar and Refreshments

Raffle



Tickets available from the box office from 16th January 2012:

Richard Richardson,

Digby Croft Cottage, Winchester Street, Chilbolton
01264 861082



www.chilboltonplayers.org.uk

Give him the perfect hint...



www.winning-formulas.com

Available in Chilbolton Village Stores

Jane's Kitchen

Chocolate is again a favourite at Christmas, and the following is an unusual aromatic mousse served in small portions (it's rich) to end any festive meal.

An alternative to the traditional pudding perhaps?



White Chocolate Mousse

8 plump cardamom pods crushed
1-2 bay leaves
100ml whole milk
250gm good quality white chocolate – Lindt vanilla or Vairhona
300ml double cream
3 free range egg whites
Cocoa for dusting

Put the milk, cardamom seeds and bay leaves into a small pan and bring slowly to the boil. Remove from the heat and allow to cool. Melt the chocolate (I find this is best in the microwave on defrost – takes a bit longer than in a bowl over hot water but is less likely to over-heat). Whip the cream into soft peaks and the egg whites till firm peaks. Pour the cooled milk slowly into the melted chocolate, and stir gently until velvety. Fold into the egg whites using a metal spoon, and then add the whipped cream. Mix carefully until all ingredients are combined. Scoop into small wine glasses or expresso cups. Chill for at least 3 hours. Dust with cocoa powder before serving.

Merry Christmas Happy New Year

Jane Spence

Chilbolton Horticultural Society

**‘Joseph Paxton – gardener to grandee’
An illustrated talk by Rosina Branham.**

Tuesday, 24th Jan 2012. 7:45pm, Chilbolton Village Hall

Paxton was an English gardener, designer, writer and creator of one of most famous buildings of Victoria's reign, the Crystal Palace.

Visitors welcome £3.00 or become a member £7.00 per year.
Further details Sheila Evans tel. 860697

28 October Village Hall Quiz

It gives us great pleasure to announce that the net profit from the quiz and raffle came to £740.00. This was raised for the local charity BOAZ (a project to provide an excellent horticultural facility with related work opportunities at which adults with learning difficulties may come together to be valued and productive). A vote was taken for next year's charity and the winner was the Andover VIPs (a local charity for visually impaired people).

Many thanks to everyone who attended and a special thanks to those who helped us, this was very much appreciated, it enabled everything to run smoothly on the night.

*Graham Parsons, Mary Hook, Andrew and Lesley Kent
(Quiz organisers)*

From the **Andover Advertiser** – 18 November 2011

“Music Man Brian Dies” by Dick Bellringer

A tribute to music making in Church Street at many Wherwell Fetes.

BRIAN Keel, who was well known locally, with his fairground organ playing at many events, has died at the age of 79.

He was born in Andover and lived there all his life.

The son of a businessman who owned a furniture and wood polishing shop at the top of Andover High Street, Mr Keel grew up in Millway Road.

After leaving school aged 14, he started work as an apprentice electrician with Southern Electricity, where he continued to work for 47 years, as well as working for Swattons Builders and later at AWE Aldermaston.

Mr Keel completed two years' national service in the RAF as an electrician and was posted to Cologne in Germany, leaving as a Leading Aircraftsman.

He married Wendy in 1959.

He loved motor racing, visiting Thruxton, Castle Combe, Brands Hatch and Silverstone – he even had the thrill of driving a car round Thruxton circuit.

Camping was another interest, though he later transferred to caravanning – and while visiting many places he would try to organise visiting steam train and traction engine rallies.

His greatest hobby was his beloved fairground organ. Mr Keel could be seen at many events in Andover and surrounding villages playing music – he even went



Brian Keel, pictured with one of his fairground organs, has died aged 79.

as far as Redruth in Cornwall.

He will be sorely missed by his wife, Wendy, daughter Carol, son-in-law Peter, and grandchildren Amy and Lewis.

The funeral will take place on Monday, 21 November, at 1.15pm at Basingstoke Crematorium. Family, friends and former colleagues are welcome.

Chilbolton and Wherwell Wildlife

Very many people feed birds in their garden – especially during the winter time. But not everyone appreciates that a source of clean fresh water for bathing and drinking is just as important for majority of species. Larger birds such as Blackbirds, thrushes, and pigeons, tend to go down to my small pond. But I have a pedestal bird bath tucked in a sheltered position under a bush, and this is much favoured by all the smaller birds. All the tit species are regular visitors – sometimes as many as six Blue Tits all splashing away at the same time, and the three common finches – Chaffinch, Goldfinch, and Greenfinch. I also regularly see Nuthatches and Blackcaps in the water, and the occasional Chiffchaff and Goldcrest. But the recent highlight was a brief visit to the bird bath by a Firecrest. Firecrests are more brightly-coloured than Goldcrests, and have a very prominent black and white stripe across the face. They are generally becoming more common in Hampshire and southern England, perhaps as a result of a generally warmer climate.

Another bird that has responded to warmer conditions during the past twenty years or so, is the Little Egret. They were once a rarity, but in the last few years they have become a familiar sight throughout the south. I'm sure you'll all have seen them on Chilbolton Common, and sometimes there have been as many as six birds along the river by the Purlygig Bridge. Now though, you also need to start looking out for two of the Little Egret's rarer relatives – the big brother Great White Egret, and the little brother Cattle Egret. Both breed in north-west France, and are visiting this country more frequently. A Cattle Egret was seen near Barton Stacey last year, and just a few weeks ago I was lucky enough to see a Great White Egret in the Test Valley near Whitchurch. The easy way to differentiate these from the Little Egret is to look at the colour of the bill: the Little Egret has a black bill, but the two rarer ones have bright yellow bills. And the Great White Egret is unmistakable, because it's relatively enormous – slightly bigger than a Grey Heron. So next time you see Egrets on the common, do take a closer look!

The next couple of months often bring us some cold weather (you'll recall it snowed in December last year), in which case look out for arrivals of more Redwing and Fieldfare on the berries, and for birds like Redpoll and Siskin coming to your garden bird-feeders. If on the other hand, it remains very mild, then I shall be going out searching for some of our more unusual moth species that, strangely enough, only fly during the midst of winter. My target this year is to find the very rare Plumed Prominent – a species that the books say can only be found close to old Field Maple trees on chalk downland. We shall see!

Glynné Evans (hantsbto@hotmail.com)

News from West Down

Let's start with a joke ...

'Two ponies walk onto a conservation site and the Ranger says 'Hello there... Why the long face?'

I know what you're thinking, hilariously funny and this man has obviously missed his vocation but what does it have to do with West Down?

Our Highland cattle have been grazing the site for the last few years and, alongside mowing and the hard work of the Friends of West Down volunteers, have been playing an important part in restoring the site to the rare and species rich grassland it once was.

However, our Highlands are in popular demand and can only be at West Down for a few months of each year. As such, to complement the work being carried out by the cattle we are planning to introduce two Exmoor Ponies. By moving in this direction we will be achieving two things. Firstly, Exmoor Ponies are not only extremely good at grazing off rough and unwanted coarse vegetation but they will also browse scrub more than cattle. This is ideal for West Down and will keep the grazing pressure on all year round, creating better conditions for the germination of desirable grass and flower species. Secondly, the Exmoor is Britain's oldest pony breed, little changed from the original ponies that colonised Britain thousands of years ago. Today they number less than a thousand worldwide and are on the endangered list of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (www.devonponies.co.uk) As such, in using these ponies to manage West Down we will be helping in the conservation of Britain's heritage.

The ponies selected for this job are neither too friendly nor too wild, and will keep themselves to themselves. As with the cattle their introduction will not affect access or dog walking. If you are interested in seeing Exmoors carrying out conservation grazing, please visit Danebury Hillfort where we have been successfully grazing with these handsome animals for the last year. Further information will also be posted on the West Down notice boards.

Bradley Brown (Hampshire County Council Countryside Ranger)

Cottonworth Ploughman achieves Hampshire Treble

Bob Warwick, tractor driver for Fullerton Farm, takes three championships!

On 2 October, at the Hampshire County Ploughing Championships, Bob became Reversible Champion. On 22 October, Bob also became Reversible Champion at Winchester Growmore Club. He then went on to become Reversible Champion at Stockbridge Growmore Club. Well done Bob!!

Acker

West Down Working parties

Despite a poor turn-out and dubious weather we had a very productive day on 29 October, and hopefully will again on 27 November. The following task days are **Sundays 18 December** and **29 January**. We will be removing small scrub from the bank near the recycling car park. These days are not only a great way to get actively involved in the conservation of West Down, they are also a good way to socialise and have some fun. Come along, don't make me waste anymore biscuits! Meet **10am** at the top car-park.



Chilbolton Neighbourhood Watch Report

I returned from a very good holiday to find that things have been quite quiet. However, there were several emails waiting for me, each reporting a scam of some sort. Several related to a postal scam which encouraged the receiver to ring an 0906 number to trace a spurious parcel which would have cost them £315! Eventually I learned that the whole thing was in itself an old scam from 2005 and should be ignored.

Then there were reports of scams about tarmacking driveways. Also about rogue traders cold-calling vulnerable people on the phone saying that a monitoring service had been requested, that bills were now in the region of £3,600 and that unless payment was immediate, the police would be called.

If you are unlucky enough to receive such a call, hang up at once and ring the Hampshire County Council's Quick Response Team on 01962 833666 (part of Trading Standards). They will be pleased to give advice and help with any cold calling or doorstep crime during office hours. Like the police, they will come out if they are rung while the cold callers are still about, be they pushy sales or utilities personnel. They will also help if you have problems with ordinary shopping e.g. overcharging or difficulty with exchange, etc.

Never, ever give card details over the phone. You can, of course, ring the police on 101.

With very best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and 2012,

Maria Watson, tel: 860415 e-mail:

mwatson.cottage@hotmail.co.uk

Chilbolton FC Monthly Update - December 2011

16 October	Chilbolton	3 (2)	v	3 (4)	Chute Sports (Cup)
23 October	Lee Filters	5	v	2	Chilbolton (League)
30 October	Tidworth Royals	1	v	0	Chilbolton (League)
07 November	Chilbolton	8	v	10	Hurstbourne (Cup)

As winter finally draws in the standard of division two has really started to show and we have struggled to find the form we had at the start of the season. Let's hope December gives us the opportunity to get some results in the league!

Our first cup game of the season saw us drawn against Chute Sports, a team in our own league and it turned out to be a very even encounter. After 90 minutes the scores were level at 1-1, but Chute scored early on extra time, and looked like they had won but the Chilbolton boys battled hard and Pete Southworth equalised with only a minute left to take the game to penalties. Despite losing 2-4 in the shoot-out it was an excellent performance with Matt Carrott earning a man of the match reward for his constant commitment and hard work.

Lee Filters away proved to be a different kind of opposition, a fast and skilful forward line put Chilbolton defence under pressure forcing us into errors. The score line does not reflect the performance as Chilbolton played some good football, created and took two excellent goals. Ollie Southworth had an outstanding game scoring both goals and covering a massive amount of ground to try to win the ball and get on the attack.

Tidworth Royals are second in division two and demonstrated it attacking constantly for almost 90 minutes. The Chilbolton defence put in an outstanding display as did stand in keeper, Pete Southworth who between them kept the score to 1-0. It was our failure to clear a loose ball from the box following a corner that game Tidworth the win. Chilbolton went close twice, Ollie Southworth struck the post but were unable to find the equaliser.

Our final game of the month saw us back at home against Hurstbourne Tarrant Reserves in the Open Cup first round. It proved to be an eventful encounter with a total of 18 goals scored over 120 minutes of football, sadly it was not in our favour. Defensive errors and some early lapses in discipline saw the lead slip from our grasp on several occasions and it was 6-6 at the end of 90 minutes with another six going in during extra time – not an easy game on the finger nails!!

You can now follow the team live on Twitter (@chilboltonfc) with live pitch side tweets as well as team news and Manager insights in between games. You can also keep in touch with the team at www.chilboltonfc.co.uk and we look forward to seeing you at one of our future games, supporters welcome with tea and coffee at half time and then after the game at the Abbots Mitre where Tom and the team always look after us. See you there!

Sam Horne (07969 055300) Manager

The Abbot's Mitre Fresco

Tom Romita, who took over the Abbot's Mitre earlier this year, has teamed up with Winchester artist Kezia Hoffman to create Chilbolton's first fresco since the Middle Ages and probably the only pub fresco in Hampshire. After months of painstaking work, the fresco, which adorns the wall of the snug at the back of the Abbot's Mitre, is nearing completion.

Full of vibrant colour, it symbolises Tom's native Puglia: a stony path leads the viewer to a cluster of stone domed *trulli* houses, with their mills and olive oil presses, whilst above the village broods the unique octagonal Castle of Andria. Luscious grapes, mouth-watering Mediterranean fruit and seafood, and gnarled olive trees, evoke the Italian cuisine in which the Mitre specialises. Kezia used plaster and strips of linen as a base for the paint to add texture.

Tom said 'I'm thrilled at Kezia's interpretation of my concept. It captures the spirit of Italy.' Happy as he is to talk about Puglia and advise anyone wanting to visit this beautiful region, Tom emphasises, 'Italy is my past. My future lies in Chilbolton.' He is brimming with ideas to restore the Abbot's Mitre to the heart of the village and grateful for all the suggestions he received at last month's village meeting.

Local MP Caroline Nokes will formally unveil the fresco and Tom is inviting everyone to the celebration which will feature Italian delicacies.

For more information, contact Tom on 01264 860348 or go to:

www.abbotsmitrechilbolton.co.uk

Lis Bennett



**THE HANGAR DOORS ARE
OPEN!**

If you have or had connections with aviation or are just interested in aeroplanes, come along to the Pavilion at Wherwell Playing Fields on Tuesday 6th December at 2000 hours and meet other enthusiasts! The hangar doors and the bar will be open from 8pm. There will be £2 admission fee.

John Andrews Tel: 01264 860635 Email: flyjohnandrews@aol.com

Wherwell Church Restoration - Phase One completed

By the time you read this article, the Church will once again be open with both the nave roof and spire restored, and the tower strengthened. In addition, the new drainage system will also have been completed. Services will once again be being held as can be seen from the Church Services schedule in this edition.

It was thrilling to be part of the Topping Out Ceremony which took place on 20 November. Seeing the re-gilded cockerel weathervane being placed at the top of the spire was a fitting conclusion to this first part of the Church Restoration Project. We would like to reiterate the words of the Right Reverend Peter Hancock, Bishop of Basingstoke, who so kindly joined the celebrations, and Antony Ansell when they spoke at the ceremony, and thank all those involved, including those who have so generously given of their time and money to the project. Also A.E. Hughes and Sons Ltd, the principal contractor and their team, and our Church architects, Jeremy Poll and Richard Codd of Radley House

Partnership. It is generally agreed that the exterior of the Church looks magnificent and is now more than capable of serving the community for a further 140 years! What is also pleasing is that with further funds coming from local fundraising efforts and grant-making trusts and charities, plus a better than expected recovery of VAT and good cost control, we have been able to fully cover the overall costs of £319,000 from already received funds.

The only part of this first phase that remains is the installation of the bell chiming mechanism. This should be taking place in the next couple of weeks with volunteers from the village, namely Ray Blazdell and David Wright, both members of our chiming team, helping the Whitechapel Bell Foundry fitter. Once installed the chiming team will put their training at St. Catherine's Church, Littleton, into practice and we will once again, for the first time in 40 years or so hear the church bells on a Sunday.



The 'new' church in 1869 from the Priory Lawn – ten years after completion



Nearing completion our 'new' church 140 years later!!

(Continued on page 38 ...)

(... Continued from page 37)

As from January, the focus will move to the next phase of our £500,000 project, namely the possible enclosing and refurbishment of the vestry and the attached service area, with the installation of a new dual heating system to heat the Church and vestry independently. This is likely to total some £80,000, given the extra work in the vestry and service area. As of now we already have nearly £30,000 towards this target – almost 40%. The balance of £50,000 will again be sought through a mix of applications to grant-making trusts and charities plus local fundraising activities.

As with the initial fund raising there is always the option, should a donor prefer, of simply contacting Anna Lipa on 01264 860879 or anna@stefanlipa.co.uk who will be more than happy to visit your home and personally explain what we are doing in the next phase and how you can contribute in a tax-efficient manner.

David Etchells - for the Church Restoration Project Team

The Wherwell Annual Quiz

Hosted by Brian & Lydia Knight

**Saturday 14th January 2012
Wherwell Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

Tickets £7 bookable through
Pam Flanagan 860560
Peter Granger 860870

Supper is included

This is always a popular event so please book early. Enter either individually and join a team on the night or enter your own team of up to 8 players.

Please bring your own drinks for refreshment during the evening.

There will be a raffle at half time with all proceeds going to the Hall improvement fund.



FATHER CHRISTMAS
is coming to
ANDOVER GARDEN CENTRE

WEEKENDS from 26th / 27th NOVEMBER
DAILY from 17th to 23rd DECEMBER

SATURDAY & WEEKDAYS 10 - 4.30
SUNDAYS 10.30 - 4.00
CHRISTMAS EVE 10 - 12.00

HOW ABOUT BOOKING BREAKFAST OR TEA
with
FATHER CHRISTMAS?

PHONE 01264 7105512 FOR DETAILS

organised by WHERWELL PLAYING FIELD'S COMMITTEE