

All Saints' Church Coleshill



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

*Easter
2002*

Mad Axe Man Hits Old Town

In the murky evening lamplight, a sinister figure advanced up the High Street in Old Amersham. He was tall, bulky too, in a hooded anorak. Over his shoulder was a huge axe, its sharp edge glinted in the reflected light from the shops. As he walked up past the Market Hall, people edged uneasily into doorways or the reassuring safety of pubs. Car door locks clicked shut, the occupants hoping not to catch his eye. Up the alley by the King's Arms, then back again, where in the narrow passage the young Pastor of the Baptist Church, innocently on his way to a meeting, found himself suddenly confronted with the terrible vision, which advanced on him axe in hand. What gruesome end would he meet at the hands of this monster? "Hello Ian," said the Rector pushing back the hood. "I am just on my way to the almshouses. One of our residents has a massive wooden dresser in her kitchen which is too big to come out on its own. The Churchwarden and I are going to give it a whack or two and have a bonfire. I just dropped off one or two items of post at Chapel House on my way." I was badly mistaken to think that I could stroll up the High Street carrying an axe. However harmless my intentions, the community interpreted it as a threat. It is easy to miss the point on something which in fact is very important.

This Easter, the Church celebrates the Resurrection of Christ from the dead. The Resurrection of Jesus is the best attested fact in history. Yet for many, its importance is missed. All of us as human beings are vulnerable to the ups and downs of life. As one of my colleagues in run down Smethwick remarked, even in wealthy Amersham, people still get cancer. The resurrection is sure proof that God is willing to extend the promise of hope and new life to all who ask in the name of Jesus. Is this hope a living reality for you, or are you missing the point?

This Easter is a time for all of us to grasp the truth; the Resurrection is important for me, it can be my hope of new life too. And the dresser? It turned out to be utility plywood.

Happy Easter!

Tim Harper
Rector of Amersham with Coleshill



News from All Saints'

Christmas Services

The Christingle Service, Festival of Lessons and Carols and Christmas Day service as always were very well attended. We are most grateful to Pat Dawson and Rosie Searles for organising the tea in the hall following the Carol Service, although a disappointingly small number of people attended. Proceeds from the retiring collection at the service and profit from the tea totalled £165.63, which has been sent to the Village School.

Mothering Sunday

There will be a Family Communion Service at 10.00 am on **Sunday 10th March**, to which all are welcome.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Full details of services in the Parish appear on the final page of this newsletter.

Christian Aid

Ann Lawrence has again kindly agreed to co-ordinate the house-to-house collection for Christian Aid Week, which is to be held on **12th - 18th May**. Helen Spencer will be arranging a sponsored walk on **Sunday 19th May**, beginning at the Red Lion at 11.00 am. Further details appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Village Fete

The village fete will be held on **Saturday 1st June** and is again being organised by Philip Denyer and his team. This will take place in the meadow by the pond, by kind permission of Richard and Rosemary Valentine. Offers of help to Philip Denyer please.

Charitable Giving

As a result of the profit made on the Harvest Supper, £160 each was sent to Rushmead Hospice, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, and the All Saints' Church Flower Fund.

From a private donation to the church of £300, £150 each was sent to the Children's Country Holiday Fund and Douglas House Hospice.



Visit of the Lord Bishop of Warwick

The Bishop of Warwick, the Right Reverend Anthony Priddis, formerly Rector of this Parish, preached at the morning services in the Parish on Sunday 27th January. At the 9.00 am service at All Saints', the Bishop dedicated the new choir stalls. Following the services, a lunch was held at the St Mary's Church Rooms.

Common Worship - Final Survey

Following the interim survey conducted last summer a final survey is currently being carried out and is open to all who wish to respond. Forms may be found at the back of the church and should be returned to Ruth Murphy by Sunday 31st March.

Committee Membership

Following the resignation of Philip Denyer, due to pressure of work, Dumpy Swerling has joined the committee.

Youth Worker

Our Parish Youth Worker, Mrs Marianne Holt, attended the All Saints' Committee Meeting of 29th January. She had provided a comprehensive report of her work since joining us in September and there was the opportunity to ask questions. The committee considered that she has already achieved a great deal in working with the youth in the parish. A copy of Marianne's report is displayed on the church notice board.

Church Cleaner

Susannah Pond has resigned her post as Church Cleaner as she will shortly be going away to university. We are very grateful to Susannah for the excellent work she has done in always keeping the church looking its best. We are pleased that Caroline Pool has agreed to take on the role, beginning on 1st March.

Ruth Murphy

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Holy Baptism - 2001

Darius Nathan Albon - 9th December

In Memoriam - 2002

Louie Christina Edwards - 26th January



Obituary

Louie Edwards



Sadly Louie died suddenly on 26th January aged 80. She was the oldest of 6 children, and was born in a cottage in Magpie Lane, on the site of Old Rafter's. The family moved to Red Lion Cottages soon after she was born, and she stayed there until her marriage to Albert in Coleshill Church on 10th January 1942. For a short time after their wedding, Louie and Albert moved to Chalfont St Giles, before returning to live in The Bit until 1951. They were one of the first families to be given the choice of a house in Hill Meadow, where Louie lived until her death.

She started her schooling at the Village School, and was one of their first pupils to gain a place at Dr Challoner's Grammar School - then a mixed school, based solely in Amersham. During the war, she worked in both The Red Lion and the Old Village Stores, before becoming one of the first villagers to gain employment in London.

Prior to starting a family, Louie worked for some years in the Civil Service on Northumberland Avenue. When her family had grown up, she returned to work in the "other" village shop in the 1980's.

In later life, it was a daily occurrence to see Louie cycling or walking between Hill Meadow and Manor Way (Tony and Kate's house), keeping an eye on the village she loved.

Louie played an active part in village life right up to her death. She was a regular visitor to the visitor to the Cricket Club, often making teas, and a member of the Red Lion ladies darts team. She joined the Penn Street W.I. in 1969, became secretary for many years and was elected President last year, when she had a slight stroke.

Louie will be greatly missed by us all. She leaves 5 children, 13 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren.

John Ullman



Coleshill Infants School

Spring Report

We have 39 pupils on roll at the school this term rising to 46 in the summer term, so our school is rapidly expanding. The children who joined us in the New Year have settled in very well.

We have held two 'Open Assemblies' this term where parents and visitors are invited to worship with us. Tim Harper or Marianne Holt, the youth worker, usually leads the assembly and the children enjoy singing in front of an audience. After the assembly, the Parents and Friends organise a cake stall, the profits going towards books in the classrooms. It is a good opportunity to show our hospitality by welcoming people into our school.

At the beginning of February, the children took part in an annual music morning held at Jordans Infant School. The theme this year was 'Toys' and the children took teddies, puppets, kites and footballs with them to help the morning go along with a swing. A good time was had by all and the whole event was, as usual, professionally orchestrated by Pauline Griffiths, our honorary music teacher. Our special song was 'The Teddy Bears' Picnic' sung with great gusto, particularly by the younger children.

The Parents and Friends group has been very busy organising events and fund-raising for the school as ever. A new computer was purchased for the Early Years Class earlier this term. A Quiz night was held in January organised by Glynis and John Culley and a 'Ladies Indulgence Evening' is being planned as I write to coincide with Mothering Sunday. This will take place at the Village Hall on **Friday, March 8th**, from 7.45 - 10.30 p.m. A whole range of treatments will be available, so why not come along ladies, be pampered and support the school at the same time? Looking further ahead, the school May Fayre will take place, weather permitting, in the school garden from 12- 2.30 pm on **Saturday May 18th**. Please come along and join in the fun.

Our end of term service takes place at All Saints' Church, Coleshill at 11 a.m. on **Thursday, March 22nd**. You are cordially invited to attend if you are able.

A Happy Easter to everyone

Jenny Earp
Headteacher



Christian Aid Walk

Sunday May 19th 2002

This year we will be organising another walk for Christian Aid so please put the date in your diaries now. Again, we will be starting from the Red Lion at 11.00am and the walk should take about 2 hours to do. Entry fee is £5 and £1 for dogs! Children under 12 - free. Proceeds for Christian Aid. It is great fun, so do join us for a good mornings walk. Details of the route later.

Helen Spencer

Coleshill Footpath in Winter



Coleshill footpath in winter just beyond the Red Lion

From a photograph taken by and used with permission from John Jefford

Coleshill - A Short History

Introduction

This extract is reproduced with kind permission of John and Max Chenevix-Trench. The original booklet is being reproduced in full and will be available from Patsy Wright-Warren, price £2.00, donation to the Coleshill Harvest Charity.

John Chenevix -Trench is a well known figure in Coleshill, having lived in the village for 50 years. He is a well-respected local historian and antiquarian who pursued painstaking academic research into ancient archives, many of these in Latin, and has published many scholarly works, including this short history of Coleshill.

Origins and Beginnings

Sooner or later everyone who lives in Coleshill asks the question, 'Why is Hertfordshire House so called?' and it is a very good question because by the time one has the answer, one has learned a great deal about the origins of Coleshill. But it should not be asked about Hertfordshire House alone. Until 1844 the whole of Coleshill was a detached part of Hertfordshire, and so was that part of Beaconsfield that lies north of Ledborough and Longbottom Lanes.

To answer the question we must go back to the last quarter of the Sixth Century, when two groups of English settlers were beginning to move up into the hills. One of them had been settled for a century or more in the valley of the Thames; they were Middle Saxons, belonging to the people who gave their name to Middlesex. The other group, composed of Angles, had recently (in the year 571) conquered a Roman-British community in the Vale of Aylesbury. Advancing into the hills from both sides Angle and Saxon met along a line now represented by the Boundary of the Chiltern Hundreds. 'Hundreds' are very ancient administrative districts and the Chiltern Hundreds were the Chiltern territory of the Kingdom of Middlesex, not the whole of the Chilterns. The English did not settle there or displace the native population, but they took over the land as its lords, and the natives soon adopted English speech and culture.

Whether there was any Roman-British settlement in the Coleshill is an interesting question, to which the answer is, it depends what you mean by Settlement. There is no evidence of any farming here at that time, but the Romans had a brick and tile works near Brentford Wood. Sir Henry Chauncy, who published a history of Hertfordshire in 1700, has a story of a curious pavement 'after a fashion of dice-work', being ploughed up here. He thought it was the remains of a medieval chapel, but in fact it was a Roman tessellated pavement. I found it some years ago.

This passage from Chauncy is the source of the idea that there was a medieval chapel in Coleshill, repeated in the Victorian County History. Apart from this bit of industry it was all forest; but forest was a valuable economic resource to our ancestors; not just for timber, but for grazing their pigs and cattle. Saxon communities nearer the Thames staked out claims to this valuable land: Farnham Common got Seer Green, Burnham got Beaconsfield, part of Penn went to Taplow and part to Wooburn. And, coming from the other direction, a community of Angles from near Tring established grazing rights in what is now Coleshill.

They had the priceless asset of a reliable water supply - our village pond. They called it the 'Clenemer', the Clean Pond, not because the water was clean, but because it was clear of trees; it stood in a clearing, now the northern tip of the Common. Probably they built shelters round the edge of the clearing, but it is not likely they lived here permanently. They called the place Stock or Stoke, a word which means a Cattle Farm, usually at a distance from its parent village, and it bore this name throughout the middle ages.

This state of affairs lasted for several centuries, and all the time, as grazing animals ate the seedlings and pigs munched the acorns, the forest was getting thinner. By the early Tenth Century the stage was set for the next development.

Soon after the year 900 South-West Hertfordshire was conquered by Danes. This did not result in a wholesale displacement of population, but in the replacement of English landlords by Danish ones. The new Danish lord of Tring needed land with which to reward his followers. What could be more natural than to give them the empty forest grazing grounds of his new property? The forest was already thin, perhaps in places cleared altogether, and there would have been little work for them to do with the axe. In this way the first farmers came to Coleshill, and they were Danes.

The process was perfectly peaceful - there was nobody to drive out - and there was no bloody battle on Gore Hill. *Gore* meant a triangular piece of land (it still means a triangular piece of cloth), and the name really belongs to a triangular field to the left of the road.

Naturally these Danish settlers wanted to make sure that any disputes that arose between them were settled according to Danish law, and not the English law that prevailed in the surrounding communities. The court where such cases were heard was in those days the Hundred Court. So Coleshill was attached to the nearest Danish Hundred, the Hundred of Dacorum, in which Tring lay - and lies. Dacorum Hundred means the Hundred of the Danes. And so it remained for the next 900 years.

Continued in the next edition

John Chenevix-Trench

Change of Address

John Chenevix-Trench has now moved to:-

Westminster Chorleywood Nursing Home, Rickmansworth Road,
Chorleywood, Herts.

Max Chenevix-Trench has also moved to:-

5, Amersham Road, Beaconsfield, HP9 2HA.

The Queen's Golden Jubilee

We hope that many villagers will want to join in celebrating the Golden Jubilee, and some thought has gone into planning how we might do this. Here are the ideas so far:

The Village Fete will be held on **Saturday June 1st** - further details from Philip Denyer on this.

On **Sunday June 2nd**, there will be a special church service at which a Jubilee Seal will be presented.

On **Monday June 3rd**, The Red Lion will be serving barbecue meals from 12 noon until late, and will have a marquee covering the front garden.

At 3.30pm there will be a children's fancy dress parade by the pond, with a special Jubilee gift for every entrant. The winner will have the privilege of switching on the Jubilee lights later in the day. The fancy dress will be followed by a children's party in the tent in the Valentine's paddock at 4pm.

From 8pm it is hoped there will be live music by the pond and adults are invited to party and dance. It would be fun if people would dress in 50's style - perhaps as a character from the 50's (Elvis, Brando, Teddy Boys, early rock 'n'rollers, beatniks, Andy Pandy!.....).

The area around the pond and the Red Lion will be decorated with as many lights as we can muster, and these will be switched on as soon as it starts to get dark.

Obviously, it would be helpful to know how many people are going to be around and wishing to join in the celebrations, so please complete the enclosed slip and post it in the special Jubilee Reply Box in front of the Red Lion before the end of March. Any other ideas are also welcome - please get in touch with Lindsey Haubner if you have some suggestions.



Coleshill W.I.

Time flies, and with the sunshine on the Spring flowers it feels a long time since I wrote the last report for the Autumn newsletter. I'd hate to bore you all harking back to Christmas but I have to mention that we had a wonderful Christmas party. Really you should have been there to admire the ingenuity of the members arriving decked out in "baubles, bangles and beads." The theme was taken up enthusiastically and the winner was one of our newer members, Sue Windsor, who had W.I. in glitter on her reindeer antlers! The committee will be hard pressed to follow the success of the event, but we like a challenge!

I was thrilled to win the bursary draw and plan to put the money towards a return visit to our very own Denman College. Four of us had a marvellous weekend there in the autumn and I know the others envy my opportunity to return soon.

The first two speakers this year have covered the interesting topics of Furniture Restoration and The Life of a Falkland Islander. Next month we are looking forward to Royal State Coaches, very suitable for this Golden Jubilee year! We are hosting the Spring Group Meeting, where several W.I.s get together to enjoy an afternoon exchanging ideas and experiences and making new friends, and this time the speaker is going to tell us all about her travels around the world with her bike.

Now, what about the outings? Yes, you guessed correctly, we have several planned.

There was a good turn out for the first ramble of the year, all those resolutions to keep fit, and we plan to enjoy many more. Soon we are off to the V.& A. Museum for a guided tour of the new galleries and in early March we are going to see 'South Pacific'. Sorry, both trips are sold out, else we'd invite you to join us.

However, if you are curious, or like the sound of our W.I., why not come along to our next meeting, **Thursday, 14th March, 2:30p.m.** in the Village Hall. You'd be most welcome.

Eileen Gershon



The Red Lion

A record number of villagers and friends (63) turned out on Boxing Day for the annual golf competition. This year's winner was Jim Fletcher, a friend of Barbara and Peter Dodds.

Whilst reporting on sporting events, none of our teams has done particularly well in their respective leagues this season (save for the men's 'A' darts team, who came 2nd). However, one of the quiz teams is in the quarter-final of the league knockout cup, the crib and dominoes team is in their semi-final, and the men's 'A' darts team is in the final of the Harry Upson Memorial Cup, a trophy they won last year.

Following the record turnout for the golf, can we expect another record from the village on May Day (74 to beat!)? Again, Grand Union Morris will be here on **Wednesday 1st May** at 5.20 am to "Dance in the May" and bless our crops by the pond, with breakfast to follow- from 6.00 am - for all who turn up.

For the Jubilee celebrations on **Monday 3rd June**, we have hired an open-sided marquee to cover the front garden and we will barbecue all day. This will tie in with the other events arranged, and the car park will be free of cars so that it can be used for games etc. Any ideas?!

Finally, with Chris' help, John has lost well over a stone in his effort to get fit for the village-based charity cycle ride to Rome. He is returning early for the Jubilee celebrations, and is raising money for the NSPCC and the Leonard Cheshire Home in Gerrards Cross. For further details, or any other information about the "doings of the Lion", ring 727020.

John Ullman



Coleshill Bowls Club

Coleshill short mat bowls club have had unprecedented success in the County finals scooping the Singles, Pairs, Triples and Mixed Fours titles from stiff opposition. John Holland winning the singles, being joined by June in the pairs and by Kevin Goodman in the triples. Roy & Val Taggart joined June and John for the mixed fours. All now go to Kettering in April to contest the National Finals with an England shirt as the prize.

Kevin and Peter White were runners up in the pairs. I will let you know how we get on.

This is obviously a terrific effort by all concerned, and to all come from the same club quite exceptional, and a first to my knowledge.

The league programme is still running but Farwell club seem to have it wrapped up with a healthy margin over all others. Oh well you can't win them all!

The internal competitions are being keenly fought again with some very close results owing to a handicapping system being played for the first time.

A new friendly fixture against Bourne End is being played on the 17th February and we are looking forward to meeting new opposition.

Don't forget we play through out the Summer and always have space for new members, whether novice or experienced.

John Holland



Coleshill Tennis Club

Welcome to a new tennis season which I hope will be blessed with good weather!

At the time of writing, preparations are well under way for our fund-raising event, the Race Night on the **Friday 1st of March**. We are confident that it will be a fun and certainly noisy, evening.

Club Play on Sunday mornings commencing 10:30 are proving to be extremely popular - do come along and join in the fun. Club Play will change from Sunday mornings to Tuesday evenings at 18:00 from **Tuesday 2nd April**.

Now is the moment to draw your diary forth!

The following are the tennis events for this season:-

Sunday 7th April A FUN DAY / TRY OUT DAY.

This day is aimed at all members and non-members (*everybody*), both adults and juniors. This fun day has been arranged by our Club Coach, Aian Lowe, he will be present and will provide some coaching, games and there will be an opportunity to record the speed of your serve! - an opportunity not to be missed - It is hoped that anybody who wondered if tennis might be fun would come along, as well of course all members - who know that it is fun! This event will run all day, starting at 10:30; the barbecue will be lit at lunch-time, salads and bread will be provided. So, turn up with your meat and refreshment and be prepared for a day of FUN.

Sunday 12th May FUN FOR ALL TOURNAMENT

Club members are paired with several different players to play 'short sets', the four players who win the highest number of games then go through to a semi-final (random draw of partners) and then a final. Our Club Coach, Alan Lowe will be organising this event.

The barbecue will be lit at lunch-time, bring your own meat and refreshments.

Sunday 9th June COLESHILL VILLAGE TOURNAMENT

Private courts parties organised by the owners, as well as a Club party at the Tennis Club to be followed by a semi-final and final at the Club courts.

Sunday 14th June LADIES DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

Members enter as a pair and either a Round Robin or a League Tournament will be held with a final. Our Club Coach will be organising this event. The barbecue will be lit at lunch-time, bring your own meat and refreshments.

Sunday 21st June MENS DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

Members enter as a pair and either a Round Robin or a League Tournament will be held with a final. Our Club Coach will be organising this event. The barbecue will be lit at lunch-time, bring your own meat and refreshments.

Sunday 15th September CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Format and timing to be advised, please see Notice board during August.

We are delighted to be able to report that the Club Coach, Alan Lowe will be running weekly coaching groups commencing **11th of April** subject to demand, as follows:-

LADIES	Thursdays	09:30- 10:30
MENS	Thursdays	18:30-20:00

Coleshill Cricket Club

After its long winter hibernation the cricket club is slowly returning to action. This year net practice will be at the Bourne Centre, Holtspur, and starts on **Sunday 3rd March** from 12:00 to 13:00. Any potential new members are welcome to practise and meet some of our existing players.

The club is eagerly awaiting delivery of new sight-screens before the start of the season. This purchase was made possible by the generous contributions of the many vice-presidents from the village.

Our objective for this season is for the Saturday 1st XI to consolidate their position and challenge for honours in the top division of the Morrants Chiltern League. For the Saturday 2nd XI the objective is to gain promotion back into the top division of the reserve section of the same league. Everyone at the club sees these as achievable targets and are looking forward to another successful season.

This summer the cricket club will be embarking on its first overseas tour from **29th July to 2nd August** and are hoping to play 3 matches. The trip will be to Holland, not one of the great cricketing nations, but it will give us the opportunity to play Nijmegen whom we regularly play when they tour this country.

Nigel Palmer
Secretary



Horticultural Society



An Evening with Dave Watkins
Gardening writer, journalist and BBC broadcaster
Friday 10th May 2002 - Village Hall
7.30 for 8.00pm

Dave Watkins gave us an excellent evening two years ago presenting a stream of original and practical gardening advice, hints and tips, put across in a light-hearted but greatly enthusiastic way. So we are lucky to get him again this year and expand his talk to cover his travels abroad in countries such as Grenada, New Zealand and the Caribbean - suggesting plants and gardening practices that can do well in our gardens at home in the UK.

Admission, including a glass of wine, £5.00



Diary Note

Please remember The Annual Show on **Saturday 7th September 2002**

John Savory

The Village Hall

Helen Hitchen, Hon Secretary of Coleshill Village Hall Management Committee, has been looking after the Hall while I have been away. In the absence of the Chairman and Treasurer from the Village at the same time she has ably coped with the day to day running of the Hall and the occasional problems that arise.

The Hall is 20 years old this year and as a way of celebration there will be an evening reception on **Friday 27th September** to which all residents of the Village will be invited.

The A.G.M. of the Village Hall Management Committee will take place in the Hall on **Thursday 25th April** at 8.30 pm. All residents of the Village are very welcome to come to the meeting and enjoy a glass of wine afterwards.

Ann Lawrence

Parish Council

At the last Parish Council meeting held on the 4th Dec 2001 the main topic for concern was again the traffic calming. By now all households in the village will have received a map outlining the proposals and placement of signs. Every household was offered the chance to put their views in writing, whether for or against the Traffic calming, and to return the forms to the Chairman of the Parish Council, David Hall. The findings of this survey will be put to Chiltern Council when Councillors David Hall and John Jefford meet again with the planning department for Traffic Calming. On a personal note I find it is getting more and more dangerous to walk my dogs during the winter months in the dark. Even with a flashlight on and a luminous stripe on my jacket the cars and vans are going at such a high speed that it is clear that one day an accident will happen. Also the game of Russian roulette when walking past large puddles - can we get past the water before a speeding vehicle ploughs through and soaks humans and canines alike?

Coleshill is entering the Best Kept Village competition again this year. We just missed winning by a few points last year, so let's really make an effort in this Jubilee Year to win. If you are out walking, why not take a carrier bag with you to pick up any rubbish you see? I know it is a bore and a drag but if we won it would be great. Also advise any visitors you may have not to park on the grass verges - nothing spoils the roads more than mud and wheel tracks on the grass.

The dates for the Parish Council meetings for 2002 are as follows:-

12th March, 11th June, 10th September, 10th December

Meetings start at 8.15pm and are held in the Village Hall, members of the public are most welcome to attend and have a chance to speak in the Democratic period at the beginning of the meeting. So, if you have something to say or something you would like done in the village, come along. Remember it is your village.

On a much lighter note, spring is here and the snowdrops are looking lovely this year. Wonderful clumps of them appear all around the village, and with daffodils and narcissus ready to flower it brings a smile to everyone.

Susan Smith
Clerk



Neighbourhood Watch

It is always unnerving to be confronted by someone unexpected on your doorstep and this has happened quite regularly this winter. Dodgy looking people with dodgy stories can leave the most solid villagers caught out, so our more vulnerable people can be even more disconcerted. Especially if they are in the house on their own.

Can I urge you to think Neighbourhood Watch if this happens to you. Let the word go around that we are a staunch N.W. village. So if someone is trying to sell you something, say,

'No. I'm sorry. Our Neighbourhood Watch is encouraging us not to buy from salesmen at the door'.

Likewise, if, as has happened twice recently, someone asks to borrow your phone say,

'I'm sorry, but our Neighbourhood Watch group has warned us that an unscrupulous caller has used that story to gain entry to a village home. Whilst I'm sure your need is genuine, I am going to take advice from my N.W. co-ordinator. Try the public phone up the road'.

I am afraid that the old village days of helping out a traveller in trouble have to be abandoned because people will try any excuse to either keep you talking at the door whilst a colleague is at your back door, or will try to enter your home on their own, or get money from you. Don't be tongue-tied. Think Neighbourhood Watch and use it for an excuse.

While the nights are starting to draw out now (hooray!), it is still advisable to have a torch with you at night. I have a tiny one with just two AA batteries, which I keep in my pocket always. It's surprising how often it has come in handy on dark nights and is enough to show drivers you are there. Can I suggest that you look out for one for yourself and one for your children.

Jack & Lindsey Haubner



A word from our 'yoof' worker

I think I have the best job in the world! It's been a frantic few months and the Youth group has gone from strength to strength. A recent highlight must be the trip to the Dry Ski Slope. While those that could ski shot gracefully down the steep hillside, the rest of us fell down the little beginner slopes with much hilarity. The young people were pretty good by the end of 2 hours; us adults on the other hand are still nursing bruises!

I've been getting more involved in the local schools, with assemblies at St Mary's and All Saints', and it is great being greeted in the street by the kids. I was privileged to take 3 days of assemblies and lessons at Dr Challoner's Grammar, which were great fun, particularly being grilled on my Christian faith by the 6th formers! I'm also getting involved with the Christian Union at Dr Challoner's High, though the girls do a fantastic job already.

Christmas was a whirlwind of candles, carols and dressing up as Santa's little helper (green never was my colour). The Youth Group Christmas party was... A BEACH PARTY! We turned the heating up, did limbo in our sarongs, played volleyball and sucked jelly up straws (fun and exercise for the facial muscles!). My top Christmas event had to be the Crib Service, the nativity/pantomime! We had a 6ft 5in cockerel, a herd of singing sheep, a secretarial mouse and a very defensive donkey at our 'ANIMAL COURT' not to mention the all-singing, all-dancing, saxophone-wielding angelic host (my extraordinary Youth Group). It's amazing what people will do at Christmas isn't it!

Now that we're into 2002 we have come up with a new project, deciding to raise money for the "send a cow" campaign. The Youth Group are aiming to raise at least £1000 to send an entire farmyard (cows, goats, chickens, beehives and fruit trees) to an African village and provide all the food and veterinary care. Look out for our fund raising events! It's all just getting better and better.

There are youth events on Sundays and Fridays as well as frequent special events, for ages 10 -18. If you would like more information call 723793.

Marianne Holt
St Mary's and Coleshill Youth Worker



Coleshill Common n

Coleshill Common is the heart of the village, at least it is for some people. I have found that there are two groups of people in the village - those who live towards the outer edges (and don't have a dog), many of whom are hardly aware that the Common even exists. The others are those who live in the centre of the village (and those that do have a dog), for whom the Common is a precious and important place. But they too fall into two groups - those who would like to see it largely cleared to enhance the view and take it back to where it was fifty years ago (see picture below) and those who wish to see the growth allowed to flourish, in an organised way, so that it can be a true haven for wildlife. (see picture over).



Village Common as it used to be
From a postcard loaned by Louie Edwards family

Pity the poor Common Management Committee which strives to keep the balance (and the peace) between the two! It is not easy!

Despite intensive research, it has proved impossible to find out who owns the Common. Each year Chiltern District Council makes an allowance for its upkeep to the Parish Council which in turn delegates responsibility for this to the Management Committee.

Since the publication of the Management Plan in 1994, The Committee has striven to carry out the objectives:



"To protect and conserve the unenclosed character and naturalness of the site for the benefit of the flora, fauna and other wildlife, for its quiet enjoyment of the public on foot and for the enhancement of its natural beauty through positive and sensitive management."

Each summer members of the Management Committee, some of whom are trained and experienced in the care of the environment, review the previous season's work and walk round the Common to plan the programme for the next season. Specific ideas put forward by villagers are always considered and are discussed with them. A report is then made to the Parish Council and all those living around the Common are notified of the basic programme and the dates of working parties, and are invited to join in.



Village Common as it is now
From a photo taken by Nick Sadler

Most of the work is carried out by the small band of Committee members and more helpers would be very welcome.

Anyone wanting to know more about all this, who would like to see the Management Plan or to join in the working parties, do get in touch. I should be pleased to hear from you.

Patsy Wright-Warren
Chairman of the Coleshill Common Management Committee - 433356



All Saints Magpie Club

Magpie Club continues to run very successfully on fortnightly Tuesdays at All Saints' school. Numbers continue to climb and we're constantly on the lookout for willing mums and dads to hang around and help out. This term we are having a look at Jesus' miracles and the children have made some absolute masterpieces to take home with them.

We have also learnt a song in sign language which some of the children performed beautifully in church.

Lastly a special thank you to our new 'Young Leaders' (children who are too old for All Saints School but still want to come to Magpie) who are wonderful and are worth their weight in gold!

If you are interested in finding out more please call on 723793.

Marianne Holt

Contact Numbers

Rev'd Tim Harper	Rector	01494 724426
Dorothy Potter	Parish Secretary	01494 729380
Ian McCallum	All Saints' Pro-warden	01494 725083
Patsy Wright-Warren	All Saints' Pro-warden	01494 433356
John Brumwell	Parish Treasurer	01494 724704
Ruth Murphy	Hon Secretary, All Saints'	01494 433539
Catherine Green	Church Flowers	01494 724922
Ruth Murphy	Organist & Choirmaster, All Saints'	01494 433539
Frank & Heather Auton	Newsletter	01494 431036
Susan Smith	Clerk, Parish Council	01494 724490
Ann Lawrence	Village Hall Bookings	01494 433421
Marianne Holt	Magpie Club & Parish Youth Worker	01494 723793
Jenny Earp	Headteacher, Village School	01494 727206
Jack & Lindsey Haubner	Co-ordinators, Neighbourhood Watch	01494 722589
Catherine Green	President, Coleshill WI	01494 724922
Amanda McCallum	NSPCC	01494 725083
Lindsey Haubner	Coleshill Horticultural Society	01494 724922
Angela Perry	Secretary, Coleshill Tennis Club	01494 721865
Nigel Palmer	Secretary, Coleshill Cricket Club	01494 763036
John Holland	Coleshill Short Mat Bowls	01494 729357
John & Chris Ullman	The Red Lion	01494 727020

Diary Dates

Sunday	3rd	March	Cricket Club Net Practice Starts
Friday	8th	March	Village School 'Ladies Indulgence Evening'
Sunday	10th	March	Family Communion Service
Tuesday	12th	March	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday	14th	March	W.I.Meeting
Thursday	22nd	March	School end of term service
Sunday	24th	March	Palm Sunday
Wednesday	27th	March	Holy Week - Holy Communion
Thursday	28th	March	Maundy Thursday
Friday	29th	March	Good Friday
Saturday	30th	March	Easter Eve Service
Sunday	31st	March	Easter Day
Sunday	31st	March	Common Worship Survey Forms to Ruth Murphy
Sunday	7th	April	Tennis Club Fun Day/Try Out Day
Thursday	11th	April	Tennis Club Coaching begins
Thursday	25th	April	Village Hall Management Committee A.G.M.
Friday	10th	May	Horticultural Society 'Dave Watkins' Evening
Sunday	12th	May	Tennis Club Fun For All Tournament
Sunday	12-18th	May	Christian Aid Week house-to-house collection
Saturday	18th	May	Village School May Fayre
Sunday	19th	May	Christian-Aid Sponsored Walk
Saturday	1st	June	Village fete
Sunday	2nd	June	Jubilee Seal special church service
Monday	3rd	June	Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebrations
Sunday	9th	June	Tennis Club Village Tournament
Tuesday	11th	June	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday	14th	June	Tennis Club Ladies Doubles Tournament
Sunday	21st	June	Tennis Club Mens Doubles Tournament
Monday	29th	July	Cricket Club Overseas Tour
Saturday	7th	September	Horticultural Society Annual Show
Tuesday	10th	September	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday	15th	September	Tennis Club Championship Finals
Friday	27th	September	Village Hall 20 Years Anniversary Reception
Tuesday	10th	December	Parish Council meeting

Parish Councillors

David Hall	Chairman of Parish Council	01494 725231
Richard Valentine	Vice-Chairman of Council	01494 725794
Tony Barber	Member of Parish Council	01494 722143
Gillian Bungey	Member of Parish Council	01494 431583
John Jefford	Member of Parish Council	01494 433230
Sue Miles	Member of Parish Council	01494 721717
Nick Sadler	Member of Parish Council	01494 726277

Services in the Parish for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday - 24th March

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP), St Mary's
9.00 am	Holy Communion (CW) with procession, All Saints'
10.15 am	Family Communion (CW) with procession, St Mary's
11.45 am	Matins (BCP), St Mary's
6.00 pm	Choral Evensong (BCP), St Mary's

Wednesday in Holy Week - 27th March

10.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) in St Catherine's Chapel, St Mary's
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Maundy Thursday - 28th March

7.30 pm	Christian Passover Celebration, flowing into Maundy Thursday Eucharist, stripping of the altars and quiet meditation, St Mary's <i>(If you are intending to come to the Passover celebrations, please let the Rector know in advance, telephone 724426)</i>
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Good Friday - 29th March

11.00 am	Service of Meditation, All Saints'
2.00 pm	Good Friday Liturgy, St Mary's

Easter Eve - Saturday 30th March

8.00 pm	Service of Light, St Mary's
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Easter Day - 31st March

6.30 am	Sunrise Service on Rucclesfield (above Tesco)
8.00 am	Easter Communion (BCP), St Mary's
9.00 am	Easter Communion (BCP), All Saints'
10.15 am	Easter Family Communion (CW), St Mary's
11.45 am	Easter Communion (BCP), St Mary's
6.00 pm	Festal Evensong (BCP), St Mary's