

WHAT A COINCIDENCE!

"I was shot by the Rector of Amersham with Coleshill!"

Bill surprised me with this remark. Rectors these days are reckoned to be harmless enough, unless provoked. He went on, "It was when I was a boy. There was a shoot locally and I was helping as a beater. The then Rector (who shall remain nameless) was not a great shot, and he plugged me by accident. It wasn't serious in any way and I was quickly comforted."

"By the way Bill", I countered. "Would you believe that in my present Parish in London I have a **Tyrwhitt Road** which joins a **Drake Road**. What a coincidence, meeting a man with the name **Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake!**"

"Yes indeed," said Bill. "You live on Wickham Road Brockley, and you have an Amersham Way and Shardeloes Road nearby too. It is not so much a coincidence as a thread of history. My family were the local squires of Amersham with Coleshill for centuries. Back in the C19 two Wickham sisters married two Tyrwhitt-Drake brothers and the girls brought a considerable amount of property in South East London to the family. When it was developed in mid Victorian days as an up market suburb, the streets were named by our family. You have already seen where Wickham Road got its name, and Shardeloes is the name of our old house in Amersham. In 1865 we gave the land on which St Peter's Brockley is built, where you are currently vicar."

At this point the Churchwardens drew us back to the matter in hand, that I was being interviewed for the post of Rector of Amersham with Coleshill. Their grilling was fierce, and so was that served up by the parish teams and the Bishop of Buckingham. Thinking myself very much an "also ran" candidate I answered their questions with an unguardedness that surprised even me. After all, however strong my background and experience in the Church of England, what was an inner city Vicar from the depths of South London where the parishioners could blend happily on the set of "Only Fools and Horses" doing as a candidate for a post in such a beautiful part of Buckinghamshire?"

Much to my amazement, the Bishop phoned me next day to say that I was the unanimous choice of the Parish Reps, Parish interview team, and himself. But one man could outvote them all. Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake is now the "Patron" of the Parish; in other words for many centuries his family possessed the right of

nominating the Rector. Representing his aged father, Bill took the responsibility very seriously, and while sharing the prayerful short listing and interview process with the Parish and Bishop, it was Bill's signature as Patron on the nomination form which would give the successful candidate the job.

The Bishop told me that Bill had chosen me too. To my astonishment I was to be the new Rector of Amersham with Coleshill.

Now that I am indeed your Rector, in retrospect I realise that there is no such thing as coincidence. God loves to give a plan and direction to our lives. Very often it may not be clear just what that plan is; we simply have to get on with our lives. But sometimes we can glimpse the thread of his purpose. I hope this story of His guidance in my life as part of a plan stretching back some two hundred years will encourage you; that Jesus Christ is interested in us as individuals, and how we respond to our circumstances of this life matters to him. As Psalm 139:9-10 says, "if I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

Tim Harper
Rector of Amersham with Coleshill,
formerly Vicar of St Peter's, Brockley, London SE4

NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS'

WELCOME. A very warm welcome to our new Rector, Tim Harper, his wife, Rosie and their three children, James, Caroline and Jonathan. We wish them all every happiness.

I should have started by apologising to Tim. In announcing his forthcoming arrival in the Christmas newsletter, a slip of the fingers showed him to be only four years old! The error was spotted by Penny Ware who was kindly helping me to do the photocopying whilst I was juggling with the newly arrived Charlotte. I decided to leave it be and see just how many villagers actually read their newsletters. I'm pleased to say I had plenty of comments and if any of those who pick up on my errors would like to volunteer to proof-read the newsletter each quarter, I would be more than grateful! In the meantime, here is a little explanatory poem, found appropriately by Penny.

The typographical error is a slippery thing and sly.
You can hunt until you're dizzy, but it somehow still gets by.
Until the forms are off the press, it's strange how still it keeps;
It shrinks down in the corner and it never stirs or peeps.
The typographical error is too small for human eyes
'Til the ink is on the paper, when it grows to mountain size.
The boss just stares with horror, then he grabs his hair and groans;
The copy reader drops her head upon her hands and moans.
The remainder of the job may be clean as clean can be
But the typographical error is the only thing you sea!

My thanks to Penny for her help with all the copying and to Stuart and Rosemary Valentine who helped collate and staple the newsletter. My thanks also to Walter Clayton who co-ordinates the distribution and to the distribution team.

Amanda McCallum

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EASTER LILIES. We are, once again, continuing with the idea of the congregation buying Easter Lilies in memory of a relative or friend if they would like to do so. We would then aim to put a list of those in memory of whom the Lilies have been given in the Church, both as an act of Thanksgiving for their life and as an invitation to others to pray for them. The cost of a Lily will be £2.50. If you would like to contribute in this way, will you please let **Catherine Green** (01494 724922) know by **Sunday 16th March** so that they will know how many Lilies to order.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WEEKEND - 10th & 11th May. St Mary's together with All Saints' and other **Amersham** Churches are again sharing in the hosting of young adults from many overseas countries who are now studying in or near London. A short period of overnight hospitality, from lunchtime on Saturday until Sunday afternoon is all that is required. The organising committee arranges a programme of activities on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. If you are able to consider hosting one or more guests please contact Amanda McCallum (01494 725083) before Sunday 6th April.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY LENT BOXES. If you have taken one of the Lent Boxes, please remember to bring your box back to Church on Easter Sunday or soon afterwards.

COLESHILL VILLAGE SCHOOL

1997 is an important year for the school as it is our 150th birthday. We shall be having many birthday activities next term and hope that past pupils/parents will be able to join us. If you have any photographs or artefact about the school, or Victorians, which we could use for display, they would be appreciated.

Our celebrations are as follows:-

Saturday 29th June	11.00am - 2.00pm	Summer Fete opened by Lady Howe
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During the week of 30th June, Thanksgiving Service in church

Thursday 3rd July	10.00am - 12.00pm 1.30pm - 2.30pm	Open Day
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Friday 11th July	Evening Reunion
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Thank you to everyone who supported the Bazaar, at which £812 was raised, and the Quiz Night, which raised £690.23.

We were fortunate enough to win the Recycling Prize of £539.76. Thank you to everyone who brings in paper, tins and plastic bottles to be recycled. Please continue to do so.

We are still collecting Weetabix tokens for atlases and Sainsbury's vouchers have started again. Please help us with collecting these. Also paper, card, wool, etc. are always useful to us.

Nursery Vouchers

Please contact us if you would like your child to start school using a Nursery Voucher. From September we are taking children the term after their 4th birthday. They shall be in a separate group from the older children.

Louise Stallwood

COLESHILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SPRING MEETING: on FRIDAY 11th APRIL in the Village Hall at 7.30 for 8.00pm will be devoted to a talk by MR DON HILL, a leading authority on DAHLIA cultivation. He will also hopefully be bringing with him some rooted cuttings and tubers for sale. Here is your chance to ensure a dahlia display this autumn, or take your first steps if the plants are new to you. All for £4 entrance fee, payable at the door.

SUMMER OUTING: on SUNDAY 29th JUNE

WADDESdon MANOR

(as seen on the Antiques Roadshow, BBC1)

Since its recent restoration by the National Trust, Waddesdon Manor has become a very popular venue. Parties are shown around the house in groups, and for this visit we have arranged a viewing time of 2.00pm. We plan to leave the pond at 11.00am, with a return at 6.00pm, depending on the traffic. Cost of a seat on the coach will be £6, or £5.50 if we get sufficient numbers. Payable on the coach or in advance at £6 rate. Entry into the gardens, shops and aviary only will cost you a further £2.50. The conducted tour of the house, plus garden will cost you £7.95 in addition to your coach fare. National Trust members are exempt from house & garden charges, but not the coach fare.

For further information, advanced booking (some have already booked!) ring:-

Ewart Smith	Chairman	725402
Helen Hitchen	Treasurer	727677
Judi Herbert	Secretary	433534

This promises to be a very good outing, saving the trouble of driving, and ensuring a tour of the house (including we hope the upper floor, not previously open). Licensed restaurant is available or take a picnic (not on the lawn please).

E.S.

COLESHILL W.I.

Our winter season started off with a very successful Christmas lunch enjoyed by 50 members. Employing a caterer seemed a very popular idea and much appreciated particularly by the committee who were saved the chore of washing up!

Unfortunately just after Christmas the village hall was out of action and our January and February meetings were relocated. We are very grateful to **Winchmore Hill** for allowing us to use both their village hall and the Methodist Hall.

The January meeting was well attended in spite of very cold weather and members enjoyed an entertaining and instructive demonstration on make-up and care of the skin. How many of us are still following the good advice we received then?

February was something different, being an illustrated lecture on the Isles of Scilly and Treco Gardens showing the many beautiful flowers that grow there and the attractive scenery.

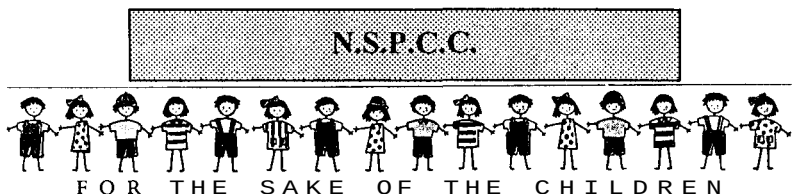
A very successful coffee morning was held recently on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the W.I. in Canada, and over £100 was raised to swell our funds.

Very enjoyable outings have been made over the last two months to "Friday Night is Music Night", "Guys and Dolls", and a walk in the countryside, one of many organised over the years by our own Ann Trotman.

At the time of going to press, future entertainment includes a visit to Aylesbury Museum, a Quiz Night, "An Evening with David Shepherd" and an Art & Craft Day to be held in our own village hall which gives us plenty to look forward to.

Please note our meetings now revert to the usual time of 2.30pm on the second Thursday of every month.

J.P.



A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Fund which has raised £1,269 in all.

Our next event is a Spring Flower Demonstration by Edna Johnson (who is an Associate of Honour of NADFAS) followed by a lunch. This will take place on Wednesday 30th April in the Village Hall. Tickets will cost £15 and are available from Sharon Hall [725231], Barbara Dodds [722782], and Rosemary Valentine [725794].

Please do support us.

S.H.



Christian Aid this year runs from 11-17th May. There will be the usual envelope collection and the main fund-raiser will be a 3-course dinner in the village hall on the evening of Friday 16th May.

Next year I would like someone to take over from me, since I find it a busy time at work and with all my other commitments, I need to off-load something. Are there any volunteers out there? It is not too arduous, in that we only fundraise during this one week in the year. Hopefully, the collectors will continue and it therefore needs the organisation of one event, plus the "talk and tea" at the village school on one afternoon.

Please do consider it and I would be extremely grateful if someone feels that they could take it over next year. Please contact Chris George on 722535.

C.G.

FRIENDS OF RUSHYMEAD HOSPICE

We would like to thank the All Saints Harvest Charity for their very generous donations. The Committee of the Flower Festival all worked very hard to make the weekend very special.

Also very many thanks to the Drama Group for their wonderful contribution to our funds. I was so sorry to miss the evening as I hear it was a great success.

We have recently held our Spring Lunch in the Village Hall, the first event to be held there after the 'flood'! Thank you to the Village Hall Committee especially to Graham Swerling for keeping us informed of the repair work and being so honest. It was all a bit nerve racking but worked out okay.

Since we started in November 1995 we have raised, with a lot of help from the village, £7,000.

The next dates for your diaries are:-

Bridge Drive & Tea in the Village Hall on Thursday 16th October at 2.00pm - Tables will be £20 - bookable by phoning Heather Hollamby on 01494 433350.

Also our Gift Fair which, this year, will be held at the Masonic Rooms in Old Beaconsfield on Thursday 13th November.

Thank you so much to everyone in the Village for their very valued support.

J.B.

COLESHILL DRAMA GROUP

Please see attachment and help the Drama Group by filling out the questionnaire.

COLESHILL TENNIS CLUB

CTC would welcome NEW MEMBERS - adult, junior or social - for the 1997/98 season beginning on 1st April. Membership fees and application forms must be returned by 1st April. The subscription rate has remained the same as last year.

CTC has its own coach - Jason Collins on 01494 727858. This year he will be running a ladies morning on a Monday from 9.30-11.00am at a cost of £5 each. He also coaches the children, which again this year will be at Penn and Tylers Green Tennis Club - the cost is £2 per hour. Please contact Jason direct if you are interested in either of these groups. Any non-members may only have 3 coaching sessions before they must join CTC.

As from 1st April ADULT CLUB EVENINGS will be TUESDAYS from 6.00pm. Everyone is welcome. JUNIOR EVENINGS will be on FRIDAYS when juniors will take preference over adult players. This year there will be a TEAM TENNIS evening on THURSDAYS, which will give the members of the teams time to practice together.

This year we have entered ADULT MIXED DOUBLES TEAMS for both the Aylesbury and High Wycombe leagues. These are competitive, but great fun and are played on weekday evenings either at Coleshill or away. We always need more team players, so if you would like to be considered for the team, do let Sharon Hall or David George know.

We have had some fun evenings. Our most recent was the Scottish Dancing evening which was well supported.

Rushmead Hospice Tournament. This has been going on during the winter for Mens Doubles and the Finals and a lunch will be held on Sunday 27th April. We hope to be able to give the hospice about £150.

There will be a JUNIOR TOURNAMENT AND BARBEQUE at 11.00am on WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY and another on WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY at 6.30pm. These are for any children who can already play tennis and not intended for very young children or beginners.

THE ADULT TENNIS TOURNAMENT will be on SUNDAY 15TH JUNE this year.

100 CLUB. We hope that by now all members and everyone else in the village have joined the 100 Club! If not, **don't** hesitate! Contact Chris Teal on 434270 for further information or any committee member.

D.G.

YOUTH CLUB

The Three Villages Youth Club is at last up and running at Winchmore Hill Methodist Church Hall on Tuesday evenings from 6.30 to 8.30pm. It caters for children in school years 5,6,7 and 8 (roughly 9 to 13 years old), from **Coleshill**, Winchmore Hill and Penn Street. About 40 have signed up as members already. The leader, provided by Bucks County Council's Youth and Community Service, is Mark Richardon, who runs a similar club at Hazlemere on Monday nights. He is supported each week by at least two volunteers from the community, who help with the tuck shop and supervision of games and activities. Is there anyone else in Coleshill who would like to help in this way once a month? If so, please contact Gill Pusey on 721694. For more information about the club and how to join, phone Penny Ware on 722486.

P/W.

COLESHILL VILLAGE HALL

Two months after the pipe burst in the Village Hall ceiling it re-opened for business on Friday 28th February with two events on that day. The parquet floor has been relaid, there is new improved lighting and the whole hall has been redecorated.

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank all the users of the hall for their patience and forbearance and all those who worked so hard to help us restore it.

L.E.



We don't have the figures for January and February last year but from March until July there were eight burglaries in Coleshill. The figure for the whole year was 13 which shows that our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is definitely helping to cut burglaries, the biggest cause of criminal misery in our village.

With the holiday period just around the corner, now is the time to be making sure everything is secure at home. Please take time to read these suggestions and think about how you can improve your own preventative measures at home:

Are all your exterior doors fitted with security deadlocks?
Is the back door also secured with mortice bolts and/or hinge bolts?

If you have patio door, is it fitted with locks, top and bottom?
Are all easily accessible windows fitted with security locks?

Do you always close and lock windows and doors when you go out?
Do you always keep spare keys in a safe place, not under the mat?

Do you always keep exterior doors locked when you are in the garden or garage?
Is it difficult to gain access to the side or rear of your house?

Do you own either a dog that barks or an intruder alarm?
Have you installed a smoke detector in your home?

Is the front door fitted with a door chain? And/or a spy hole?
Do you always put the chain on before opening the door?

Do you thoroughly check the identity of strangers at the door before letting them in?
Do you keep your valuables out of sight of passers by?

Do you display a NHW sticker in your window?
Have you post-coded your property?

Have you photographed small items that cannot be postcoded?

Have you a list of property, including serial numbers and distinguishing features?

Do you avoid keeping large sums of money in the house?

Can you say that you have NEVER left a note on the door stating you are out?

Do you always take in the milk and post promptly?

When you go out do you leave the radio playing?

When you go on holiday do you inform the police or neighbours?

Do you ask a friend to pop in and clear the mail and keep an eye on the place?

Does your garden shed have a good quality lock? Do you always lock it?

Have you installed external security lights around the house?

Do you close and lock the garage when you go out? And at night?

Are the contents of your home insured?

Are ladders locked away, or firmly secured to a wall?

Do you always lock garden tools away?

If you saw a stranger loitering in the area, would you quickly inform the police?

We hope most of you can answer yes to the questions above.

Most people in the village we have talked to about security seem to have made some improvements since our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme started.

There have been no burglaries in the village this year so far.

We and the Red Lion still have some of the gatepost Neighbourhood Watch signs. They cost 80p each and are weatherproof to put around the outside of your property.

J. & L.H.

N.B. Latest 'Ringmaster' message from Amersham police: Thefts from garden sheds and garages are currently running at about 5 per week. In a recent raid £3,000 worth of equipment was stolen. Make sure all equipment is secure and security marked.

COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

There have been two meetings of the Parish Council since the last Village Newsletter, on 10th December and 11th March. This was also the Annual Parish Meeting at which Councillors elected Julie Burton to continue as their chairman for the next year. It is disappointing that there has been low attendance by members of the public during the past year. It is a good forum for airing your views and asking questions about what is going on in the village.

COMMON

The annual programme of working parties has now been completed and the planned work carried out. In addition to the work on the village pond and the pond on the Common, there was considerable clearance at the bottom of the path beside **Wheatsheaf** Cottage and down Barrack Hill. Also the two bridges onto the Common were renewed, (work kindly carried out by Jim **Trewett**) and chippings spread on the main paths which had become extremely muddy and unpleasant to walk on. As it is now five years since we started on the management plan for the Common, the Committee will be reviewing it during the summer to plan the next five years.

SCHOOL PARKING

In the interests of improved and safer parking for the school and the village, it is hoped to make an extra gateway into the playground. This is likely to cost about £1,500 which the school unfortunately does not have. The project is being supported by the Parish Council which is also putting out an appeal for support from individuals in the village.

PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

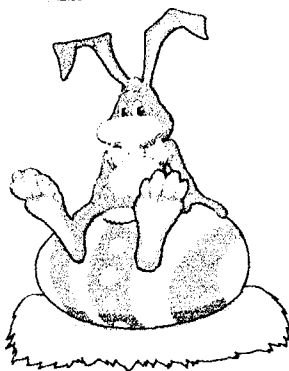
The work needed on the footpaths will be carried out by volunteers of the **Chiltern** Society. Frank and Heather Auton, who are the Society's representatives in the village will now be joining with Jean Dover and Peter Lawrence in reviewing the footpaths in the future. We are proceeding with the preparation of a Parish Map which will show all the footpaths and some local sights and will be widely available.

MILLENNIUM

Talking of parish maps, I recently attended a seminar at which there was a presentation about them and I was enormously impressed by the variety and the imagination which had gone into designing and creating them. They used every sort of medium. Knowing the number of skilled craftsmen we have in this village (as demonstrated at the exhibition last summer) I thought what a splendid idea it would be for the village to make such a map as a millennium project. The Parish Council would very much like to have your views and ideas on this. Do send them to me. And it is time that we started planning for the millennium. What suggestions do you have for us to celebrate it as a village? The WWII events were such a success and this is an even greater occasion. Do send me all your ideas, (however outrageous!) I will put them to the Parish Council at our next meeting on 10th June. In fact, why not come along, make your point there and listen to the discussions?

P.W-W.

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HAPPY EASTER !

DIARY DATES

Friday 11th April	Evening	Spring Meeting Coleshill Horticultural Society
Sunday 27th April		Final of Rushymead Tennis Tour. Coleshill Tennis Club
Saturday 10th May & Sunday 11th May		International Students Weekend
Sunday 11th May to Saturday 17th May		Christian Aid Week
Friday 16th May	Evening	Christian Aid Dinner, Village Hall
Wednesday 28th May	11.00am	Junior Tennis Tourn. & Barbeque Coleshill Tennis Club
Saturday 14th June	Afternoon	Coleshill Church Fete
Sunday 15th June		Adult Tennis Tournament Coleshill Tennis Club
Saturday 28th June	11.00am - 2.00pm	School Summer Fete
Sunday 29th June	11.00am depart 2.00pm tour	Summer Outing to Waddesdon Manor, Coleshill H.S.
Thursday 3rd July	10.00am - 12.00pm 1.30pm - 2.30pm	School Open Day
Friday 11th July	Evening	School Reunion
Wednesday 16th July	6.30pm	Junior Tennis Tournament Coleshill Tennis Club
Thursday 16th October	2.00pm	Bridge Drive & Tea, Village Hall Friends of Rushymead Hospice
Thursday 13th November		Gift Fair, Masonic Rooms, Beac. Friends of Rushymead Hospice

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Revd Tim Harper	Rector	01494 724426
Valerie Royal	Parish Secretary	01494 729380
Nick Sadler	All Saints' Prowarden	01494 726277
Helen Spencer	All Saints' Prowarden	01494 725857
Amanda McCallum	Hon Secretary, All Saints'	01494 725 083
	Editor, Village Newsletter	Fax - 01494 431 129
Howard Pool	Hon Treasurer, All Saints'	01494 727687
Ruth Murphy	Choirmistress, All Saints'	01494 433539
Patsy Wright-Warren	Clerk, Parish Council	01494 433356
Ann Lawrence	Village Hall Bookings	01494 433421
Rosemary Valentine	Magpie Club	01494 725794
Jane Davies	Brownies	01494 725549
Kaye Smith	Coleshill Guides	01494433419
Penny Ware	Youth Club	01494 722486
Louise Stallwood	Headmistress, Village School	01494 727206
Jack & Lindsey Haubner	Coordinators, Neighbourhood Watch	01494 722589
Sharon Hall	NSPCC	01494 725231
Ewart Smith	Coleshill Horticultural Society	01494 725402
David George	Coleshill Tennis Club	01494 722535
John Bullard	Coleshill Drama Group	01494 729266
John Holland	Coleshill Short Mat Bowls	01494 729357
John & Chris Ullman	The Red Lion	01494 727020

SERVICES in the Parish for HOLY WEEK
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Sun 23 March	6.00pm	PALM SUNDAY Service of Music and Readings for Holy Week (St Mary's)
Wed 26 March	10.00am	Holy Communion (St Catherine's Chapel)
Thursday 27 March	8.00pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY Christian Passover Celebration: Stripping of the Altars and Quiet Meditation (St Mary's)
Friday 28 March	11.00am	GOOD FRIDAY Service of Readings, Prayers and Music on the Passion Story (All Saints')
	2.00pm	Service of Readings, Prayer and Music on the Passion Story (St Mary's)
Saturday 29 March	8.00pm	EASTER EVE Guided Meditation (St Mary's)
Sunday 30 March	8.00am	EASTER DAY Guided Meditation (St Mary's)
	9.00am	Easter Family Communion (All Saints')
	10.15am	East Family Communion (St Mary's)
	11.45am	Easter Communion (St Mary's)
	6.00pm	Parish Easter Carols