

June 1994

"LEARNING THE SECRET"

There are a great many amazing stories in the Bible. One of the qualities of many of them is that they can be read at more than one level. That is to say, that you can read them simply as good stories to be enjoyed, but you can also read them as having a deeper, inner, more hidden meaning. Let me give an example.

There is an occasion recorded in the Old Testament book called 2 Kings (chapters 6 & 7) when the city of Samaria was being besieged by the King of Syria and all his army. The siege had lasted a considerable time and had resulted in enormous misery, hunger and starvation. The shortage of food was so acute that vast prices were being paid even for a donkey's head, while some people who were really desperate turned to cannibalism.

In this gruesome situation, four lepers had managed to survive, but they were at the very end of their strength. So they said to each other, "If we stay here in Samaria, we shall very soon die from hunger, so let us go and give ourselves up to the Syrians. If they kill us, we shall be no worse off. But maybe they will have pity on us and feed us."

So the four of them crept out of the besieged city under cover of darkness. When they arrived at the Syrian camp they were amazed to find it deserted! Even before the lepers had left Samaria, the Syrians had imagined that they were being attacked by an army from the Hittites and Egypt, had panicked and fled in disarray, leaving everything behind them!

The lepers ate their fill, and started to plunder the camp. Then they realized that the good news of what they had discovered ought not to be kept to themselves but shared. So they hurried back to Samaria to tell everyone else.

And that is how Samaria, its King and all its army, were saved, not by force of arms or power or intelligence, but by the weak, the outcasts, the vulnerable. They discovered the secret and they shared it.

That is typical of the working of God. The secret of his love is so simple (and profound) that it can easily be overlooked. He often reveals it to us in the weak and powerless. He revealed it in a baby in Bethlehem, a crucified man on Calvary, and the man's frightened friends in Jerusalem.

He reveals his secret in simple ways to you. Don't miss them, or dismiss them because they may not come in ways that you are expecting!

Anthony Priddis

NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Services

An experiment in the form of service started on 12th June when the Rite A Service was substituted for Rite B on the second and fourth Sundays in the month. This will continue for six months, when it will be reviewed to see which form is most appropriate for All Saints'.

A Songs of Praise service will be held at All Saints' on Sunday 4th September at 6 pm.

William Brierley

The ordination of William at St Mary's on July 3rd will be followed by a lunch in the Rectory Gardens. The new Bishop of Oxford will officiate. We give William our very best wishes for his ministry.

Future Dates

The Harvest Lunch will be held after an 11.45 am service on Sunday, 2nd October.

The Harvest Charity event will take the form of an Indian Evening to be held in the Village Hall on 16th September. Make sure you have this date in your diary.

A Parish picnic is to be held on Sunday 17th July on the Cricket Field. This will be a lunch time picnic, followed by an open air service.

A Parish quiet day will be held on Saturday, 17th September.

A Church Study day is planned for Saturday 15th October.

HOLY BAPTISM

On 26th June 1994 WILLIAM PATRICK BARRINGTON , son of Patrick and Yvette Jones of Winchmore Hill.

HOLY MATRIMONY

On 28th May 1994, Christopher Alan Stonell of Tring married Julia Elizabeth Davis of Coleshill.

IN MEMORIAM

May 1994, Heather Mary Catherine Murray of Hill Meadow Coleshill

May 1994, Beryl Leahy of Village Road, Coleshill

HEATHER

Some words spoken by John Baker at her funeral

I have in my mind the remembrance of the coming to this church of many people a little over two and a half years ago; of autumn sunshine, of flowers and good things all around, and of the double celebration of Harvest Festival and the Christenings together of Elizabeth and Heather. Even then, only five weeks into Heather's life, Antony was able to speak of a rich harvest that had arisen from her birth.

This day is a harvest festival once more. All has now been gathered in. We are here to acknowledge the harvest of Heather's life.

My words and our remembrance must be true to her. To remember a little girl whose days were filled, thanks to her strength of spirit, with many of the ordinary impish, delightful ways of any ordinary two year old. Yet we have known her and we have known that there was something remarkable, something far from the ordinary about this little girl. Could anyone have reached the hearts of so many people or brought so much happiness or such a sense of life as Heather has amongst us? I am sure few lives over the years have touched and united and affected this community as powerfully as Heather's has done. Many who live their full three score years and ten do not leave for the world the rich harvest that this little girl has given in her two years, eight months and two days. We who now fill this place are her harvest.

Here in this place where, as she did wherever she went, Heather has enchanted, delighted, and entertained. And demonstrated her indisputable power to upstage anyone! The Rector, the choir. whoever you were, Heather could steal the show ... no competition!

She has given much to each of us. To me she gave among many things a new name ... John Jelly is a title I have gladly answered to and would gladly do again. I know I can speak for Rosemary also in saying that we consider ourselves deeply privileged to be her godparents. All of us have been privileged that she has been shared with us.

As we give thanks for the gift of her to us, it is right that we should also remember and give thanks to God for his good gifts to her. That she did live. That she was able to shine so brightly.

And all of us here know that the greatest gift was the home into which she was born. For the special gift of her mother and her father - for the gift of Elizabeth as her big sister and then later Nicola to be her little sister. Within her family Heather knew every day of her life that she was loved. She was surrounded by their love as she died. And I am certain that it has been truly said this week that Heather was kept alive, against all odds, by the power of love.

But the overwhelming sorrow of this day is that harvest has come so soon. That the days of her summer were so short. So much that living and growing would have brought is lost. The fun that she would have so enjoyed; it can no longer be. And our sorrow is also for what we have lost - her family more than all, but I can see we each ache at her parting. Although it may be selfish, we want her back.

We are not ready for her to leave. And yet last Monday morning brought something of a sense of completion. A sense that Heather was taking her leave. She had waited until Nicola was born. She had seen again, after a long period of time, her Nanny in Yorkshire. The previous day she had seen her other Nanny and Grandad. That morning, having given Nicola a last cuddle, she gathered everyone around her as she played. Then leaning against Elizabeth she said "Heather sleep now". The harvest was gathered in.

I have a picture that Heather came to us with her hands full of seeds, seeds she has been scattering amongst us - seeds of life. She has been showing us the way to live. The way to live; to laugh; to rise above adversity, to meet struggles with courage, the way to love. These have been Heather's seeds - this is what we have been given. And having shown us how to live she has now shown us how to die.

And we were not meant to be left without hope. May day morning dawned with such beauty. The cherry tree in the garden heavy with blossom. Daisies scattered across the grass and bluebells gracing the green woods. The warm sunshine brought peace and calm. It was as if the edge of a curtain was drawn back and a shaft of Heaven's beauty fell across earth as Christ came to lift her into his arms. He will keep her safe.

THE ROSANNA HOSPITAL

As a memorial to Rosanna Delia Casa (nee Curling) her mother, Dr. Marigold Curling, and the rest of her family very much want to assist the Kurdish people, whom she, her husband Nicholas and his brother-in-law Charles Maxwell, were seeking to serve at the time of their tragic deaths.

It is out of this desire to help the Kurdish people and honour the memory of Rosanna, Nicholas and Charles, that the plans for the Rosanna Hospital have been born. The target is to raise a quarter of a million pounds and any contributions should be sent to The Rosanna Hospital, The Rosary, Coleshill. (Full information on the leaflets to be found by the main door of the Church)

COLESHILL C.E. FIRST SCHOOL

We again hosted part of the local Christian Aid Week activities with the children giving a short presentation about child slavery in India, followed by a talk by Mrs. P. Stowe and then tea and a Traidcraft stall. A pink umbrella with a dog's head handle was left behind and can be claimed from school.

We had, for the first time, a School Service on a Sunday morning in the Village Church: this was extremely well supported and very successful.

Our first Beetle Drive was held and proved to be a very enjoyable evening with a profit of £28 being made.

We are once again taking part in the Bucks Advertiser Stars' race and are at the moment in the lead. Thank you to everyone who is collecting stars on our behalf and please keep them coming so that we can maintain our lead.

Our School Fete is on Saturday, 2nd July and we look forward to seeing many of you then.

COLESHILL AND WINCHMORE HILL YOUTH CLUB

The weather has often been kind on Friday evenings so we've played Kick the Can on the common, had a scavenger hunt and done some litter blitzing. Indoors we've had a session of table-tennis coaching from Bob Ferguson and Andrew George (for which many thanks), played French and English cricket and done some drama training -improvisations using numbers as a language (more amusing than it sounds!). We also enjoyed becoming a Human Fruit Machine to the Church Fete and entering a team in the It's a Knock-out competition where we won the tug-of-war (with a few extra to help....!

On July 22nd we shall be at Woodrow High House for a barbecue and to try out the assault course (could be very muddy, so old clothes sensible). Over the summer holidays we are planning several activities, including a treasure hunt, but not necessarily on Friday evenings. A programme will be delivered to all members but if there are new potential members out there (10 - 13 year olds) who'd like a copy, contact Penny on 722486.

CHURCHYARD TIDY

This Spring has been excellent growing weather! Please come and help weed the borders, trim round the graves and rake up the twigs on SATURDAY 16th JULY from 2 - 4 pm. There is a job for everyone to choose and to do at their own pace.

Please come and join in, and bring your own hand tools. The more the better!

C.W.

CHURCH FETE

The fete was once again a great success and remains a very popular event in the Village Calendar. This year, thanks to the co-operation of the Cricket Club, the marquee was sited within the cricket outfield and teas were served in the Pavilion. Furthermore the Cricket Club held a social function in the evening and made a very generous donation towards the cost of the marquee. I hope it will be possible to come to a similar mutually beneficial arrangement in future years. The gross takings this year were a record £2,992.

Many people in the village were involved in helping with the fete in one way or another and thanks are due to all of them. Thanks also to my fellow committee members, Dumpy Swerling, Helen Spencer, Donald Urry, Peter Dodds and Howard Green, who all worked so hard.

Finally, a special thankyou to Helen Spencer who is resigning from the Committee after 16 years! If the fete is a failure next year, we shall know why.

N.J.S.

CHRISTIAN AID

We held three events this year as well as the house-to-house collection. The village school did a lovely presentation which was all part of a jig-saw, and was followed by a talk from Pauline Stowe and then tea. Dumpy organised a fun walk and we held the 'It's a Knock-out' competition and barbecue at the cricket meadow.

Nine teams took part in the 'It's a Knock-out' and the sight of all the youngsters pulling on one end of the tug-of-war rope against 8 adults on the other will be remembered by many of us for a long time. I do have some photos if anyone wishes to see them.

A lot of people participated and spectated in the various events which culminated in a grand total of £927.22 going to Christian Aid. I would like to thank all those people who collected and organised and helped.

Chris George

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COME AND ENJOY A SUMMER EVENING at Park End Cottage, Village Road, Coleshill (Kezia de Winne's home) on FRIDAY 1st JULY between 5 and 8 pm. For an entrance fee of £1.50 you will be offered a glass of wine and can see an interesting display of plants etc. from Little Heath Farm, Berkhamsted. (This Nursery specialises in unusual plants - Agapanthus etc).

Also a display of Wrought Iron Garden Furniture, Weather Vanes, etc. (all specially treated against rust) and made by Christopher Young who now lives in Wiltshire but for many years lived in Chase Close with his family.

There will also be a display of 9 carat gold and silver jewellery - all under £100 - which could well solve the problems of a birthday present, anniversary gift etc.

ALL PROFITS WILL GO TO HELP THE FUNDS OF OUR COLESHILL VILLAGE SCHOOL, so please keep the evening free and come and support us.

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COLESHILL W.I.

With the Village Hall being used as a Polling Station on "W.I. Day" in June and Resolutions being discussed in May, April was the only recent month when a speaker came to the Institute. Mrs Black came to talk about a trip she made to a remote part of China, inhabited by ethnic minorities, probably of Mongolian origin. She brought slides to illustrate their unsophisticated way of life and examples of their clothing, which is exquisitely hand-embroidered in most intricate patterns.

Coleshill's contribution to the Spring Fair in Chalfont St Peter was very successful, due to the "Oranges and Lemons" theme suggested by Muriel Jones, and the eye-catching decoration of the stall and the generosity of donors and buyers. Virtually everything was sold, a heartening result for the organisers, and a welcome addition to Institute funds. The next effort will be a Jumble Sale in October.

There have been several walks, led by Ann Trotman, the first a triumph of determination over weather, but all very much enjoyed.

In May, V.C.O. Pat Eades led members through the intricacies of the Resolutions to be put forward at the Triennial General Meeting. They dealt with various aspects of Organ Donation, Legal Aid and Pornography. Helen Savory will be reporting to the Institute her experiences as Coleshill's delegate to the T.G.M.

June saw a departure from the usual routine, literally in a coach from beside the village pond. While eager Euro-Electors thronged the village hall where the W.I. meeting should have been held, members were on their way to board the good ship "Chiltern Princess" for a trip on the Grand Union Canal. By the time they had embarked, the record of the previous meeting had been signed and notices of outings to the Black Country and Ballet had been distributed. Once on board, a cushion, beautifully embroidered, and donated by Nancy Crisp was raffled, tea and cakes were served, and the rest - as they say - was plain sailing.

J.P.

COLESHILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

There is an outing to Great Dixter on Sunday, July 3rd. This is a Jacobean Manor House with additions by Sir Edward Lutyens and early garden design by Gertrude Jekyll. The garden is presently owned by Garden Designer Christopher Lloyd

The coach leaves Coleshill Pond at 10.30, returning approximately 5.30. If you are interested in this outing, please contact Helen Hitchen on 727677.

Date for your diary: Annual Show: SATURDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER.

SHEEP WORRYING

During May there was a serious case of sheep worrying by dogs in the Village and several animals were savaged. Unfortunately the dogs escaped and were not identified. All dog owners are asked to ensure that their dogs, however innocent, should be kept under strict control, especially when walking the footpaths across farmland, to prevent a recurrence of this nature.

J.A.

MAGPIE CLUB SUMMER 1994

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All children must be accompanied by an adult, except at Lighthouse 94

***SWIMMING : PLEASE BRING ARM-BANDS FOR ALL NON-SWIMMERS.
AN ADULT MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH CHILD**

Daily 25th-29th July 10.30am - 3.15pm

Lighthouse 94: Children 5 - 11 years. Christian holiday week at Great Missenden. Lots of fun, games, craft, music etc. Take a picnic lunch. Pre-booking required. Free.
Sue Colacicco 722068

Tuesday 2nd August 2pm

KIDZONE: Return visit to the indoor Adventure Playground at Berkhamsted. Meet at Coleshill Village Hall at 2pm. Bring a picnic tea for afterwards, together with entry fee.
Michelle Denyer 724696

Thursday 4th August 2-4pm

Swimming* at Stonelea

Nicky Miles 721724
Michelle Denyer 724696

Tuesday 9th August 2pm

Visit to Odds Farm for Rare Breeds, near Taplow. Meet at Coleshill Village Hall at 2pm. Bring a picnic tea and entry fee.

Kim Hilton 432465

Friday 12th August 12 noon

Outing to Black Park Country Park. Meet at Coleshill Village Hall at 12. Bring a picnic lunch.
Nicky Miles 721724

Monday 15th August 2-4pm

Swimming* at Stonelea

Nicky Miles 721724
Margaret Butler 727519

Thursday 18th August 3-5pm

Picnic and games on Coleshill Common. Bring a picnic tea, footballs, skipping ropes, cricket bats, tennis rackets, etc.

Lynn Woodgate 728224

Monday 22nd August 2-4pm

Swimming* at Stonelea

Nicky Miles 721724
Eleanor Stilwell 721610

Thursday 25th August 12-2pm

Cycle Gymkhana in the Paddock at Friars Vane. Bring a picnic lunch and cycle. Only children aged 5 and over.

Rosemary Valentine 725794
Margaret Butler 727519

For the younger ones: Playtime and picnic at 3 Manor Way, Coleshill. Bring a picnic lunch and ride-on toys

Lynn Woodgate 728224

Thursday 1st September 2-4pm

Swimming* at Stonelea

Nicky Miles 721724
Kim Hilton 432465

Monday 5th September 11am

Adventure walk to Stockings House. Meet at Coleshill village hall 11am with a picnic lunch. Cover legs.

Gillian Sach 728955

For wet days

Don't forget to make things for the Horticultural Show. Schedules available soon. The Magpie Club prize is awarded for effort and enthusiasm.

Tuesday 13th September 12.30pm

Lunch at Stockings House, Bottrells Lane.

Please bring a contribution of food and a donation for Magpie Club funds. Everyone welcome.

Gillian Sach 728955

Tuesday 11th October 10.30-12.00

Coffee morning/Bring and buy at Grove Mill

Please come along and bring and buy cakes, biscuits, cookies, home-made jam and other produce. All welcome

Pat Dawson 433036

GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 1st COLESHILL (ALL SAINTS) BROWNIES

This is the last report that I shall write as Brown Owl. Sadly the time has come for me to admit that I will have to fly the nest! I shall miss the girls very much, Mondays will never be the same again! I shall miss the fun, the laughter, the hugs, the tears and all that little girls are made up of, as well as the work. I have enjoyed my five years with the girls but the time has come for me to devote more time to my other commitments and to my family. No more arranging my life around school terms.

I'm sorry that, at the time of writing, no-one has come forward to take over from me. Several Mums have offered to help, so hopefully the pack will continue, by being run on the basis of a rota of Mums helping each week; not satisfactory but better than nothing.

The girls have, as usual, performed everything with enthusiasm. We now have 14 girls: Francesca has been enrolled; Naomi and Amy will be enrolled on 27 June. Jenna and Katherine have gained their Hostess badge and Georgia her Footpath. To complete their Go Challenge, Elizabeth, Laura and Rebecca are putting on a fashion show in aid of the Roseanna Hospital Appeal Fund.

Some of us went, with Judith, on the District outing to Thorpe Park, : it was a very hot day but we all enjoyed it.

We had a successful stall at the Village Fete and took part at the family service at All Saints on the day after, where, once again we were complimented on the girls reading of the lessons and prayers.

All the girls have taken part in the Anglia Challenge to celebrate 80 years of Brownies. They have learnt about Brownie history, have collected foil and bottles, (Brown Owl and Barn Owl receiving very strange looks at the bottle bank each week, posting wine and beer bottles while dressed in Guiders uniform!). The girls have observed and identified 80 items of nature - birds, trees, flowers etc. and they have completed a keep fit challenge.

We have all enjoyed being able to use the paddock, once more. Thank you to the Valentines. It's been great to be able to run around in a large area, and to be able to observe nature at first hand.

The Mums and Pat have been a tremendous help and support to me during the term, as of course has Barn Owl, who is also retiring, without them the Pack would not have been able to run. Thank you to everyone including Gail our Pack Leader, Thank you also to Ann who has been so patient when I forgot to tell her changes of dates. Thank you to the All Saints committee for paying for us to use the Small Hall;, to Antony and William for their interest and visits, and to all past Mums and Dads who have been such a support to me.

I wish the Pack every success in the future and I hope that the girls will get the leaders that they so rightly deserve.

ANNE LAKE
Brown Owl

1st COLESHILL GUIDE COMPANY - SUMMER 1994

Meetings: Time - Monday Evenings 7.00 - 8.30 pm
 Venue - Coleshill Village Hall
 Subs - £7.00 per term

The Guides:

Our numbers have swollen since our last report. From a small company of six guides we are now up to 12 with the new guides coming up from Brownies. We are also lucky to have the help of Georgina Ashley who is young, possesses great guiding experience and competence and is very nice. Her skills have already been put to good use when for the first time we managed with her help to get our fires to light for our cooking evening. Georgina is happy to help us at least until the next academic term.

The new guides are: Jennifer, Ellen, Rachel, Susie, Sarah, Elenora, Abigail, Lisa.

Activities:

Bowling Evening in Aylesbury	Amersham Old Town Quiz/Hunt
Games Tournament	Making Sweets
War Game/Rescue Mission	Cooking on the Common

Fund Raising:

Sponsored walk for the World Wild Life Fund - individual guides raised in excess of £55.00, even sponsoring our dogs!
Our Christmas Show of Beauty and the Beast raised £37.00 for RSPCA.
Fashion Show - raised some modest contribution to our own funds.
Ran the Aunt Sally Wet Sponge stall at the Fete on 11th June.

Enrolment Ceremony for:

Jennifer Green; Sarah Hanley; Susie Pond; Rachel Taylor; Ellen Tuffney.

Plans for the Summer Term include:

A weekend camp
A nite hike where we stay overnight in a hostel
A Midsummer Party for the Deaf School at Penn Street
Cooking over a camp fire

Anyone interested in joining guides please call me on Amersham 433419, or at work on 0784 474575.

Kaye Hughes

* * * ALL SAINTS' HARVEST CHARITY * * *

ADVANCE NOTICE

We try to bring you variety for our annual fund raising event in support of the mobile TB Unit at Raphael. In this, our 10th year, we are planning an Indian Evening and to enjoy the delights of Indian food and entertainment, you will have to go no further than the Village Hall. So do make a note in your diary NOW:

FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER

Further details nearer the time, or ask Ann (433545), Marcda (433969) Mary (726277), Rosemary (725794) or Patsy (433356).

COLESHILL VILLAGE DRAMA GROUP

Our next event will be a barbecue at Sharon and David Hall's (to whom, once again, many thanks) on Sunday 10th July. It starts at 12.30 pm and everyone is asked to bring a salad or a pudding (please tell Sharon which) and a bottle. Cost will be £4.

The following week (Thursday 14th) Hilary will be hosting a playreading. Please let her know (677366) if you are going. There will be a further reading on 22nd September at John Bullards.

As most of you probably know, 'Tom Jones' ultimately proved too difficult to pull together so we now need to find something else. All ideas gratefully received.

Dick Ware

COLESHILL TENNIS CLUB

On Saturday, June 25th, the Coleshill Tennis Courts were finally opened. The membership drive has proved most successful; the generosity of several benefactors and the success of the Life Membership applications is such that the courts are fully paid for before we actually opened.

Please note the following events:

Official Opening: on Sunday July 17th at 12 noon.

Fun Junior Tournament: on Sunday July 31st from 10.00 onwards

Coleshill Adults Tournament: Sunday September 11th at 10.30 am

A Notice Board at the tennis courts will soon be put up and will give full details of all functions; this will include several social events for the village in the autumn to help raise additional funds.

For those who have not yet joined, either on a full playing basis or just a social one, please contact our membership secretary:

Lindsey Eardley (433815)

David George

THE PARISH OF AMERSHAM WITH COLESHILL

The Reverend Anthony Priddis, The Rectory, Church Street, Amersham Bucks

Tel: Amersham 729380

The Revd Dr William Brierley

Tel: Amersham 433198

St Mary's Church, Amersham

Sunday Services	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Family Service (Creche, Sunday School)
	11.45 am	Matins
	6.00 pm	Evensong
2nd Wednesday of each month	10.00 am	Holy Communion

SUNDAY 3rd JULY

ORDINATION SERVICE 10.30 am
followed by Reception for William in the
Rectory Gardens (in Church if wet).

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, COLESHILL

Sunday Services:	9.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.00 pm	Evensong (1st Sunday in month only)
Family Service:	9.00 am	2nd Sunday in month
SUNDAY 4th SEPTEMBER	6.00 pm	Songs of Praise service

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Pro-Wardens	- Miss P. Wright Warren, 1 Amber Cottage	433356
	- N. Sadler, Clivia, Coleshill	726277
Hon. Treasurer	- D.C. Urry, Ardlair, Coleshill	727420
Hon. Secretary	- Miss A. Trotman, Lawyers Cottage, Magpie Lane	433545

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Brownies	- Monday Evenings: 5.30 - 7.00 pm	Village Hall
Guides	- Monday Evenings: 7.00 - 8.15 pm	Village Hall
W.I.	- 2nd Thursday of each month (except August)	
	2.30 pm	Village Hall

MOBILE LIBRARY: This calls in Coleshill every Wednesday morning

9.35 - 9.50 am

stopping alternately at Village Hall and Village Way

COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

There has been only one meeting of the Parish Council since the last Village Newsletter was sent out, and that was held on June 14th. The minutes of that meeting and the previous one were displayed on our new notice board, which does seem to be attracting more attention than the old one.

Traffic Through the Village

The only matter raised during the democratic $\frac{1}{4}$ hour was the speed of traffic through the village, particularly following the two recent accidents. This has been a longstanding concern which has been taken up with the police and the County Council over the years - the last time in 1991, when no solution was found. In the Village Appraisal questionnaire, villagers were asked if they would restrict their speed to 30 mph voluntarily and all but three agreed to do so. For a time the speeds did seem to reduce, but it is not only those of us who live in the village who are at fault.

The Parish Council decided to hold a public meeting to discuss the whole matter and this has now been arranged for Tuesday, 20th September, preceding the meeting of the Parish Council. Representatives of the police and the County Council will be there.

Coleshill Common

I received only two letters following my invitation in the last Newsletter for anyone to let me have their views. We now have a draft management plan - a most professional work undertaken by Ann Trotman. The Common Management Committee will be looking at this and planning the future at a meeting on 1st July and hopes to put substantive proposals to the Parish Council in September. In the meantime, no work will be done on the Common apart from keeping the paths clear and mowing the central grassland.

Car Boot Sales

Following the concern expressed about these at a public meeting, a petition signed by 103 villagers was presented to the Parish Council for action. The Chairman and Vice Chairman have asked David and Diana Heimann if they might meet them to discuss the situation. It was recognised that the present activities are entirely within the law.

Future Role of Parish Councils

The present Review of Local Government is the biggest shake up since the early seventies. The County and District Councils take opposing views on the best structure for the future, and the Commissioners have confused and confounded everyone by producing yet other proposals that are not liked by either! The principal issue for the Parish Council is whether it should offer to take on extra responsibilities. Being so small, it is not keen to do this but would like to be consulted more often and more widely.

Dog Fouling Notices

You asked for them. You will get them! But they are not beautiful. In fact it could be said that they will be a blot on the landscape. The Council therefore decided to put up five for a trial period of three months to see what you think of them and how effective they are. Do let me know!

Honours Board

The lists of past and present chairmen and clerks has now been put up in the small hall. Thanks to generous donations, it has not cost the Council a penny!

Best Kept Village Competition

We have got to the final again. Last year, that was as far as we did get. In fact we have not won it since 1973. Isn't it about time we did? Judging will take place during the first two weeks of July. Let's make a real effort, especially in collecting litter.